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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION

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INTRODUCTION

The sixteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 20 to 31 May 1991. The Council adopted the present proceedings at the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May 1991.

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Chapter I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. *Opening of the session*

1. The session was opened on 20 May 1991 by Mr. I.N. Topkov (Bulgaria), President of the Council at its fifteenth session.

2. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council heard a statement by the Executive Director of UNEP, in which he welcomed participants and drew attention to the main programme and financial issues before the Council at the session. The statement was subsequently issued as document UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.8.

B. *Attendance*

3. The following States members of the Governing Council[1] were represented at the session:

Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Barbados
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Czechoslovakia
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Guyana
India
Indonesia
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zimbabwe

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[1] The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 35th plenary meeting of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, held on 24 October 1988, the 45th plenary meeting of the forty-fourth session, held on 6 November 1989, and the 66th plenary meeting of the forty-fifth session, held on 12 December 1990 (decisions 43/308, 44/309 and 45/317).

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4. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Australia
Belgium
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Cyprus
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Holy See
Iceland
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Lebanon
Malawi
Malaysia
Mauritania
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nigeria
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Seychelles
Somalia
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
United Republic of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia

5. The following United Nations bodies and Secretariat units were represented:

Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC/FCCC)

United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi (UNIC)

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

United Nations University (UNU)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)

6. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

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World Bank

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

7. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Commission of the European Communities (CEC)

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)

Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC)

8. In addition, 11 international non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

9. The following other organizations were represented by observers:

African National Congress of South Africa (ANC)

Palestine

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)

C. *Election of officers*

10. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. L.P.J. Mazairac (Netherlands)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. H. Dalindra Aman (Indonesia) Mr. C.A. Liburd (Guyana) Mr. F. Penazka (Czechoslovakia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. J. Atwoki Kamanyire (Uganda)

D. *Credentials*

11. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May.

E. *Agenda*

12. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council at its fifteenth session (UNEP/GC.16/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
    (a) Election of officers;
    (b) Agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Executive Director's reports.
5. State-of-the-environment reports.
6. Co-ordination questions:
    (a) Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
    (b) Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.
7. Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.
8. The Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters.
9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventeenth session of the Council.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the session.

F. *Organization of the work of the session*

13. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.16/1/Add.1) and the timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/1/Add.1, annex I).

14. In accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure and following the organizational structure for its sessions decided upon at its fifteenth session (decision 15/1, section II, paragraph 2 of 25 May 1989), the Governing Council at its opening meeting established two sessional committees of the whole, a Programme Committee to deal with programme matters and a Fund Committee to deal with the Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters. The Council decided that the Programme Committee should be allocated, in addition to agenda item 7 (Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification), agenda item 6 (a) (Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for

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Human Settlements (Habitat)) and those parts of agenda item 6 (b) (Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination) dealing with the co-ordination and follow-up of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. The Council also decided that the Fund Committee should be allocated agenda item 8 (The Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters) and, during its consideration of the item, should take into account the report of the Executive Director on Fund target for 1995 (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.5).

15. It was agreed that the Programme Committee and Fund Committee should be chaired respectively by Mr. Liburd (Guyana) and Mr. Penazka (Czechoslovakia), vice-presidents of the Council. The Council also decided that Mr. Dalindra Aman, Vice-President of the Council, would assist the President in the performance of his functions.

16. The Council further decided to establish an informal open-ended presidential negotiating group, with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group to consider the texts of draft policy decisions before their submission to the plenary meeting of the Council for formal consideration.

G. *Work of the sessional committees*

17. The Programme Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Liburd (Guyana), held 13 meetings, from 20 to 27 May. At its 1st meeting, it elected Mr. J.N.O. Onyango (Kenya) as Rapporteur and approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.1.

18. The Council took note of the Committee's report at its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May. The report of the Programme Committee, which was originally circulated as document UNEP/GC.16/26, is reproduced in annex II of the present proceedings.

19. The Fund Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Penazka (Czechoslovakia) held nine meetings, from 20 to 24 May. At its 1st meeting, it elected Mr. C. Gamba (Colombia) as Rapporteur and approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.1.

20. The Council took note of the Committee's report at its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May. The report of the Fund Committee, which was originally circulated as document UNEP/GC.16/25, is reproduced in annex III of the present proceedings.

Chapter II

ADOPTION OF DECISIONS*

Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 16/1)

1. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May 1991, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.54) prepared on the basis of earlier drafts submitted by Uganda, on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, (UNEP/GC.16/L.33) and by Guyana (UNEP/GC.16/L.36 and Corr.1).

2. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

3. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States said that he wished to correct the false impression given by certain daily newspapers in Nairobi that the United States wanted UNEP headquarters moved to another location. The United States considered it important that UNEP headquarters should be in a developing country, and Nairobi was an excellent site. It did, however, believe that some activities should be based in other countries, but only in those cases where that would strengthen rather than weaken the Programme.

4. The representative of the United Kingdom welcomed the statement of the United States. The United States attitude during the session had made it very clear that the reports in local newspapers were misleading.

Integration of environment and development (decision 16/2)

5. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.46), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Bahamas, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Jamaica, Norway, United States of America and Venezuela (UNEP/GC.16/L.32).

6. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Special session of the Governing Council in 1992 (decision 16/3)

7. At its 8th meeting, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by Netherlands (UNEP/GC.16/L.57), whose representative requested that it should be put immediately to the vote by roll-call.

8. The representative of Mexico, speaking on a point of order, said that he wished to introduce an amendment to the draft, by which the operative part would be deleted and replaced by a single paragraph reading as follows:

> "*Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to consider the documents referred to in the preamble to the present decision and request the Executive Director to forward them in due course, together with the Committee's comments thereon, to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

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* For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session, see annex I to the present proceedings.

9. The President said that the motion of the representative of Mexico was a proposal and would therefore be considered after the vote on the draft decision submitted by the Netherlands, in accordance with rule 54, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure.

10. After a brief procedural discussion in which the representatives of Mexico, Argentina and the Netherlands took part, the Council decided, by 16 votes to 9, that the motion of Mexico should be treated as an amendment and should therefore be voted on first, in accordance with rule 53, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure.

11. The amendment of Mexico was put to a vote and was defeated by 22 votes to 18.

12. Draft decision UNEP/GC.16/L.57 was then put to the vote by roll-call and was adopted by 30 votes to 8 with 11 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Burundi, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe.

Against: Argentina, Canada, Chile, France, New Zealand, Spain, United States of America, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Japan, Lesotho, Mexico, Oman, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions (decision 16/4)

13. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.49).

14. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Rationalization of Governing Council documentation (decision 16/5)

15. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.38), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.9).

16. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Review of the organization and management of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 16/6)

17. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.43) prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Morocco, Netherlands, on behalf of the States members of the European Communities, and Uganda (UNEP/GC.16/L.30).

18. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Volunteers for the environment (decision 16/7)

19. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.51) prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Guyana and Norway (UNEP/GC.16/L.35).

20. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

World environment academy (decision 16/8)

21. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.50).

22. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance (decision 16/9)

23. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Guyana, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malta, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe (UNEP/GC.16/L.14/Rev.1).*

24. Following an intervention by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Council decided to insert the words "for its consideration" after the words "its third session", in paragraph 7 of the draft decision.

25. The draft decision, as orally revised by the representative of the USSR, was adopted by consensus.

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (decision 16/10)

26. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, France, Germany, Netherlands, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia (UNEP/GC.16/L.17).

27. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Military conflicts and the environment (decisions 16/11 A and B)

28. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.53) prepared on the basis of two earlier drafts submitted, respectively, by Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen (UNEP/GC.16/L.27/Rev.1) and by Austria, Finland, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland (UNEP/GC.16/L.29).

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* After the adoption of the decision, the UNEP secretariat was informed that Canada had wished to join the sponsors of the draft decision.

29. The representative of the Netherlands pointed that the word "organizations" should have been included after the word "intergovernmental" in the third line of subparagraph (a) of the operative part of draft decision A.

30. The draft decision, as orally corrected by the representative of the Netherlands, was adopted by consensus.

31. The representative of the United States, speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decisions, said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus, particularly with regard to decision 16/11 A, but had certain reservations about decision 16/11 B, in that it saw no reason for the Council to take a position on arms control agreement, a matter better left to arms control experts.

32. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Kuwait expressed his gratitude to the Governing Council and to the Executive Director for their initiative in monitoring the effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the consequent destruction of the environment in Kuwait and the other Gulf States. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had had a serious and devastating effect on the environment in Kuwait and the Gulf in general. Seven hundred oil wells had been burning since January, representing an environmental and health hazard to humans, particularly children, who represented the future of Kuwait, and old people, and to all other living creatures. The danger of such effects inside and outside Kuwait could not yet be estimated. It was no secret that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had had and still had devastating implications on the marine environment in the Arab Gulf. Iraq had destroyed marine life by deliberately spilling large quantities of oil amounting to several million barrels into the sea, while the Iraqi mines in the Gulf had contaminated drinking water in the region. Finally, stressing the enormity and the appalling nature of the environmental effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he expressed the hope that UNEP and the other United Nations agencies would take more urgent action to put an end to or contain them and expressed his appreciation to the members of the Council and to all the States that have agreed to give prominence to such a vital and crucial decision in the interest of the world and humanity at large.

Effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment (decision 16/12)

33. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.22), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.8).

34. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 16/13)

35. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on the subject submitted by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Sudan (UNEP/GC.16/L.28/Rev.1).

36. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a vote on the draft decision was taken by roll-call. The draft decision was adopted by 28 votes to 1 with 22 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

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In favour: Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Gambia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Rwanda, Spain, United Kingdom, Venezuela.

37. The Secretary of the Council announced that the UNEP secretariat had received a communication from the representative of Jordan indicating that, had he been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft decision.

38. Speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, the representative of the Netherlands speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Communities that are members of the Governing Council, and on behalf of Austria, said that those States had abstained in the vote on the draft decision because they believed that the decision touched on political issues that came within the purview of other forums. It was neither appropriate nor in the best interests of UNEP that the Governing Council should be burdened with political matters.

39. The representative of the United States said that his delegation had strongly opposed the adoption of the draft decision, which did not address environmental issues, as it claimed to do, but focused on matters outside the purview of UNEP. The decision served no useful purpose, environmental or otherwise, and its adoption risked jeopardizing UNEP.

40. The representative of Finland said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because, while it agreed with the thrust of the draft, it had reservations about some of its wording.

41. The representative of Norway said that Norway had abstained for reasons similar to those outlined by the representative of the Netherlands: the decision dealt with political issues that fell within the purview of other bodies.

42. The representative of Argentina said that Argentina's abstention in the vote in no way meant a change in its deep-rooted concern about the illegally occupied territories. There were, however, some elements in the text that prevented Argentina from voting in favour.

43. The observer for Morocco, speaking on behalf of the members of the Group of Arab States that are members of the Governing Council, said that those States believed that the contents of the decision did indeed fall within the purview of UNEP, as they concerned the environment in the occupied territories. He hoped that the Executive Director would follow up the decision and obtain the information necessary to complete the data base. He also hoped that the Executive Director would be able to gather information from inside the occupied territories in whatever way he deemed appropriate.

44. The representative of Canada said that his delegation regretted the lack of consensus on the draft decision. UNEP's interests would not be furthered by the politicization of its work. Canada had therefore abstained in the vote.

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45. The observer for Lebanon said that the data base should contain information on the environmental situation in the occupied Lebanese territories, which paralleled that in the other occupied areas.

46. The observer for Palestine expressed his gratitude to the Council for its adoption of the decision. He hoped that those delegations that had abstained would change their position in the light of the continuing deterioration in the situation as long as the occupying power continued its practices and schemes to eliminate the Palestinian people and settle imported hoards of Jews and so-called Jews from all over the world. Drawing attention to the devastating consequences of inaction, which could only lead to further injustices, he said that those who turned a blind eye to the problem would be held responsible as the security situation deteriorated. It was essential to ensure that the basic rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of self-determination, were respected. The Palestinian people was, however, indivisible in its determination not to live as second-class citizens. God would save the oppressed from the United States hegemony represented by the so-called new world order, the struggle would continue, and the occupation would end.

Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (decision 16/14)

47. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group (UNEP/GC.16/L.20/Rev.1).

48. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

State-of-the-environment reports (draft decisions 16/15 A to C)

49. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it three draft decisions on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.21 and Corr.1, draft decisions A to C), prepared on the basis of earlier drafts submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.4, L.6 and L.7).

50. The draft decisions were adopted by consensus.

51. Following the adoption of the decisions, the Executive Director said that he would do all in his power to give effect to paragraph 2 of decision 16/15 C. There were, however, limitations over which he had no control.

Emerging environmental issues (decision 16/16)

52. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.44/Rev.1), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.10).

53. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Hazardous environmental events (decision 16/17)

54. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.39), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.11).

55. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Enhancing United Nations co-ordination of environmental activities (decision 16/18)

56. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.47), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Bulgaria and the United States of America (UNEP/GC.16/L.31).

57. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (decision 16/19)

58. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.23), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.12).

59. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 (decision 16/20)

60. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.52).

61. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (decision 16/21)

62. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.13).

63. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Desertification (decisions 16/22 A to E)

64. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it four draft decisions on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decisions 7 A to D) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of drafts submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.4 and L.5) and amended by the Committee on the proposal of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

65. The Council also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to one of the draft decisions (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 2) and another draft decision on the same subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.48), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Morocco on behalf of the African Group (UNEP/GC.16/L.37).

66. The draft decisions, as amended by the Bureau, were adopted by consensus.

67. After the adoption of the decisions, the Executive Director said that his understanding of paragraph 1 of decision 16/22 B was that the Council was requesting him to make a recommendation on the subject to the General Assembly, which had established the Consultative Group for Desertification Control and was the only body with the authority to change its mandate.

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Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1992-1993 and the supplementary programme for the biennium 1990-1991 (decision 16/23)

68. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 10) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by its Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.16).

69. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Modification by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 16/24)

70. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 15) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of the suggested action contained in the report of the Executive Director on the subject (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.2 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2) as amended by its Chairman.

71. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Strengthening of three main secretariat units through the establishment of programme activity centres (decision 16/25)

72. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 5) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.12).

73. The Council also had before it an amendment to the draft decision submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 1).

74. The draft decision, as amended by the Bureau, was adopted by consensus.

Oceans and coastal areas (decisions 16/26 A to C)

75. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decisions 13 and 19) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of informal texts circulated, respectively, by Chile, Colombia and Peru and by Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Mauritania, New Zealand, Norway, Senegal, Sweden, Thailand and Tunisia, with amendments proposed by the United States of America.

76. It also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to one of the draft decisions (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 6) and another draft decision on the same subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.41) on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.16/L.26).

77. The Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee, introduced a further amendment to the amendment submitted by the Bureau to the draft decisions submitted by the Programme Committee.

78. The draft decisions, as amended by the Bureau and the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee, were adopted by consensus.

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Sea-level rise (decisions 16/27 A and B)

79. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decisions 14 and 18) approved by the Programme Committee, the first on the proposal of the Chairman and the second on the basis of an informal text circulated by France, Netherlands, New Zealand and United States of America, with amendments introduced by Australia, Barbados, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and at the suggestion of the secretariat.

80. It also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to one of the draft decisions (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 5).

81. The draft decisions, as amended by the Bureau, were adopted by consensus.

Cholera and microbial pollution of the coastal waters of the South-East Pacific (decision 16/28)

82. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.24), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Chile, Colombia and Peru (UNEP/GC.16/L.15).

83. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Assistance to Bangladesh on environmental matters in the wake of the devastating cyclone (decision 16/29)

84. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Asian Group (UNEP/GC.16/L.16/Rev.1).

85. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Hazardous waste (decisions 16/30 A and B)

86. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject, one (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 22) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Finland, Norway and Sweden, as amended by Greece, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America and the other submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.40), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Burundi, Kenya, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (UNEP/GC.16/L.25).

87. It also had before it an amendment submitted by the Bureau to the draft decision submitted by the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 8).

88. The draft decisions, as amended by the Bureau, were adopted by consensus.

List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance (decision 16/31)

89. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 4) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.3), as amended by France and the Netherlands.

90. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Industrial accidents (decision 16/32)

91. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 2) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.8), as amended by Norway.

92. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology (decision 16/33)

93. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 9) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.9), as amended by Brazil.

94. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International Environmental Technology Centre (decision 16/34)

95. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.45), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Thailand (UNEP/GC.16/L.34).

96. The representative of Japan introduced a number of amendments to the draft.

97. The draft decision, as amended by the representative of Japan, was adopted by consensus.

98. Speaking in explanation of the position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of Argentina said that his delegation had a number of reservations about the text: first, no study had been presented to the Council to support the establishment of the Centre; secondly, there were many complex conditions set and decisions to be taken without any reference to the Governing Council; and, third, the proposed centre appeared to be more of a training and advisory centre rather than one that would promote the transfer of technology. Indeed, there was some lack of compatibility between the text of the decision and Japan's actual position on the question of transfer of technology.

Toxic chemicals (decision 16/35)

99. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 21) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Finland, Norway and Sweden, as amended by the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

100. The Council also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to the draft decision (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 7).

101. The draft decision, as amended by the Bureau, was adopted by consensus.

Regional activities within the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme related to changes in the global life-supporting system (decision 16/36)

102. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 12) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Belgium, France, Malawi, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as amended by Argentina and, following a statement by the observer for the World Meteorological Organization, by the Chairman.

103. It also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to the draft decision (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 3).

104. The draft decision, as amended by the Bureau, was adopted by consensus.

Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies (decision 16/37)

105. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 20) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft decision submitted by the Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.17), as amended by Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom and revised by the Chairman, following an intervention from the observer for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

106. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements (decision 16/38)

107. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/18 and Corr.1, draft decision 3) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.10), as amended by the Chairman, following a statement by the observer for the World Meteorological Organization.

108. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Freshwater resources (decision 16/39)

109. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 11) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, as amended by the Chairman following a statement by the representative of the Executive Director.

110. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Protection of the ozone layer (decision 16/40)

111. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 16) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.7), as amended by the United States of America and Sri Lanka on behalf of the Asian group.

112. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Climate change (decision 16/41)

113. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 17) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Barbados, Canada, France, New Zealand and Sweden, as amended by Brazil, India, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.

114. It also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to the draft decision (UNEP/GC.16/L.50, amendment 4).

115. The draft decision, as amended by the Bureau, was adopted by consensus.

Preparation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity (decision 16/42)

116. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 8) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.6), as amended by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and Brazil, Colombia, Greece, Kenya and the Netherlands, as well as by the Chairman, following a statement by the observer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

117. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 16/43)

118. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 6) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.2), as amended by Barbados, Canada, Greece, Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

119. The Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee, said that the word "updated" should have been included before the word "report" in the first line of paragraph 2 of the draft.

120. The draft decision, as orally corrected by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee, was adopted by consensus.

Decisions 16/44 to 16/47

121. Decisions 16/44 to 16/47 were adopted on the basis of draft texts approved by the Fund Committee (UNEP/GC.16/L.19), as amended by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.55 and Corr.1). Except as indicated below the draft decisions were approved in the Committee and adopted by the Council at the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, by consensus and without comment.

The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1990-1991 and proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 (decision 16/44)

122. The Committee had approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by its Chairman, as amended by Botswana, Lesotho, Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.5).

Programme and programme support costs (decision 16/45)

123. The Committee had approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by its Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.7), as amended by Austria, Chile, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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Trust funds (decision 16/46)

124. The Committee had approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by its Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.4), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.2) and amended by Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Global Environment Facility (decision 16/47)

125. The Committee had approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by its Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.6), as amended by the Netherlands.

Chapter III

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

1. The Council considered agenda item 4 at the 2nd to 7th meetings of the session, from 27 to 29 May 1991. In considering the item, it had before it the following documentation: chapters I and IV of the 1989 Annual Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/2); chapters I and IV of the 1990 Annual Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/3); the introductory report of the Executive Director entitled "Environment in the 1990s - challenges and demands" (UNEP/GC.16/4 and Corr.1 and 2), which was supplemented by reports on the environmental consequences of the armed conflict between Iraq and Kuwait (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.1), early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies, including the role of the Governing Council in strengthening the implementation of international legal instruments in the field of the environment and in helping in the prevention and assisting in resolution of environmental conflicts, a proposed United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance, and the establishment of a green brigade (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.2), World Environment Academy (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.3 and Corr. 1 (English only) and 2), environment and economics (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.4 and Corr.1), international co-operation, environmentally sound development and revitalization of economic growth (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.4/Supplement 1), Fund target for 1995 (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.5), special session of the Governing Council in 1992 (UNEP/GC.16/Add.6 and Corr.1), and UNEP's participation in preparation for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNEP/GC.16/Add.7); the report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.16/5 and Corr.1); and, the report of the Executive Director on efforts of chemical weapons on human health and the environment (UNEP/GC.16/6). It also had before it a note by the Executive Director transmitting the report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental emergencies (UNEP/GC.16/17); a note by the Executive Director on Governing Council Bureau meetings with bureaux of its counterpart organs (UNEP/GC.16/Inf.2); and, a note by the Executive Director on implementation of resolutions of the forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council in 1990 (UNEP/GC.16/Inf.5). In addition, the Council had before it suggested action by the Council on issues raised in the introductory report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/L.5), and a draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment (UNEP/GC.16/L.8).

2. Introducing agenda item 4, at the 2nd plenary meeting of the session, the Executive Director said that he was putting six main proposals before the Council, proposals that elaborated on those submitted to the Council at the special session in 1990 and that were designed to strengthen institutional capabilities in environmental monitoring and management in the search for answers to complex global environmental problems. They included:

(a) Expansion of the Earthwatch system in order to synthesize data from separate monitoring activities, issue comprehensive assessments and warnings of identified risks and critical thresholds and to build a bridge between scientific data, policy options and required action;

(b) Establishment, on an experimental basis, of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance as a mechanism that would focus on technological emergencies and have as its essential components a register of experts and equipment a simple "switchboard" function;

(c) Mobilization of environmental volunteers, with a view to harnessing the enthusiasm of people, particularly young people, to participate in environmental protection and in responding to environmental emergencies;

(d) Expansion of the role of UNEP in assisting in the avoidance of environmental conflicts;

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(e) A proposal for the Governing Council to advise parties to treaties on the need for mechanisms to verify their implementation as a means of reducing the risk of environmental conflict;

(f) A proposal to set up, on an experimental basis, a low-cost mechanism that could lead to the setting up of a "World Environment Academy", a centre of excellence for identifying gaps in research and training on environmental issues related to economics, population, natural resources and poverty alleviation and promoting the filling of those gaps by national, regional and global institutions.

None of his proposals involved a new institution and none implied anything but a modest expenditure.

3. Other proposals concerned the periodicity, duration and organization of Governing Council sessions and the convening of a special, three-to-five day session very early in February 1992, solely to review the reports requested by the General Assembly or the Council itself for presentation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Two of those reports were requested for the Conference itself, but he himself would strongly urge that they should go to the Conference through the Preparatory Committee.

4. Finally, he referred to the report on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to deal with major environmental problems being prepared, at the request of the General Assembly, for presentation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development through its Preparatory Committee. Many constructive suggestions had been received, including the revival of the Environment Co-ordination Board, with development issues added to the Board's mandate. Any views of the Council on that important issue would help in refining the draft.

5. In conclusion, the Executive Director reminded the Council that the preparatory process for the 1992 Conference was as important as the event itself. Any delay of action on the part of the Council might be interpreted as a belief that environmental problems could wait. He urged the Council to meet the challenge entrusted to it by the world's people and demonstrate by deed its resolve to build global partnership.

6. The full text of the statement of the Executive Director was subsequently circulated as document UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.9.

7. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the Council heard a statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in which he noted the excellent collaboration between Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme and the significant progress that had been made in establishing a similar relationship with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference for Environment and Development, with which Habitat was co-operating in the preparation of a consolidated background paper on human settlements and sustainable development for presentation to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, in August 1990.

8. Stressing the need to focus attention on the living environment of the world's people and the factors of urbanization, poverty, atmospheric pollution, housing and infrastructure deficiency that directly conditioned it, he said that Habitat had embarked on a series of important programmes directly linked to the goal of sustainable development, foremost of which was the Global Strategy for Shelter to Year 2000. Work on the Strategy was supplemented by Habitat's responsibility for the urban water resources and sanitation programme within the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which was linked to Habitat's waste management and recycling programme. Habitat was also involved with the human resource requirements of sustainable development, through its programme on settlements management and finance training and its community participation programme. It also supported institutional capacity-building through its urban management programme, carried out in collaboration with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

9. It was essential to realize that the real issue of sustainable development was not environmental protection *per se* but how environmental resources could be optimally managed to achieve sustainable social, economic and physical development. The Commission on Human Settlements at its thirteenth session had made a strong case for a two-pronged approach to the human settlements and sustainable development issue by the Preparatory Committee by which human settlements would be treated as both a distinctive substantive area as well as a cross-sectoral issue.

10. After briefly pointing out some of the positive aspects of urbanization, he expressed his satisfaction that among the many crucial environment/development issues he would have liked to have seen taken up in the preparatory process for the Conference, population growth, accelerated urbanization, and energy and transportation were now receiving some attention in the preparatory process for the Conference. He would also have liked to have seen women's special concerns reflected in the Conference agenda. He called upon the Council to lend the considerable weight of its opinion on those issues, which must not, however, be perceived in isolation.

11. The direct and immediate issues of environmental health and amenities must find a place in the Agenda 21 document, the implementation of which would be greatly dependent on how much success was achieved in forging an action-coalition of national Governments, industry, local authorities and communities with a strong self-interest in making settlements work and in maximizing their contribution to social, economic and physical development. There was also need for North-South and South-South co-operation in formulating and implementing the necessary protocols and action plans, and the countries of Eastern Europe must be brought into the network for the exchange of information on technologies and management techniques. Most importantly, the institutional arrangements within the United Nations system must also be strengthened, so that the agencies whose work was closely linked to sustainable development goals received greater resources to pursue their activities with sustained vigour.

12. At its 2nd plenary meeting the Council also heard a statement by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, who said that the purpose of the Conference was to integrate issues being discussed in various forums, while avoiding duplication or competition. Conscious of that purpose, the secretariat for the Conference had instituted a work process which fully involved its partners in the United Nations system. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the Conference, he conveyed his gratitude to the Governing Council and the Executive Director for their support.

13. Reviewing the status of the preparatory process, he said that the Secretary-General of the Conference had outlined a structure for potential outputs of the Conference, which had been discussed and broadly endorsed by the Preparatory Committee at its second session in March 1991. That structure contained three elements: first, a statement of principles relating to environment and development dealing with the relationship of humans to each other and to nature; secondly, an agenda for action in preparation for the twenty-first century ("Agenda 21"); and, thirdly, certain areas where action would include the formulation of global conventions, notably of climate change and biodiversity, it being essential to complement and avoid duplication with the ongoing negotiating process for conventions in those areas.

14. The implementation of Agenda 21, as well as the conventions, would require new and additional financial resources, arrangements for the transfer of relevant technologies, particularly to developing countries on fair and affordable terms, and legal and institutional development. With regard to financial resources, there was a need for financing for the implementation of specific conventions or legal obligations and for international action undertaken particularly by United Nations organizations to implement the Agenda 21, as well as a need to augment the flow of financial resources to developing countries to allow them to incorporate sustainability considerations into development programmes. The focus of discussions on technology transfer was on building the

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capacity required in developing countries to implement Agenda 21, the need for international co-operation in science for sustainable development, and a variety of issues relating to the transfer of environmentally sound technology. Issues related to legal and institutional developments included strengthening the mandate and capacities of UNEP; arrangements for co-ordinating environmental and developmental action in the United Nations system and in financial and aid institutions; the institutional implications of international agreements; the possible need for a new environmental authority or forum; the role of non-governmental actors; and, the strengthening of regional institutions and national capacities.

15. The Conference had to deal with developmental issues not just indirectly in relation to environment but also more directly, focusing on the links between poverty and environmental degradation; the links between growth, demographic pressures, unsustainable consumption patterns and environmental degradation; the links between international economy and sustainable development; and, the way in which incentives and disincentives embodied in prices, fiscal policy, trade policy, and other major areas for economic policy helped or hindered sustainable development.

16. In conclusion, he noted that the UNCED and UNEP secretariats were maintaining close contact at every level, and that UNEP was preparing several major studies which would contribute in a substantial way to the Conference process.

17. In the general discussion on agenda item 4, many representatives spoke of the importance their Governments attached to environmental matters at the national level and gave a description of measures being taken or proposed in their countries to protect and enhance the environment and to achieve sustainable development. Many also gave an account of their Governments' involvement in bilateral, subregional, regional and international co-operation on environmental matters.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

18. Numerous representatives spoke of the importance of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). One voiced the opinion that, as UNCED was taking place after the Cold War, it could devote itself fully to environment and development issues. Another expressed the view that the Conference would formulate the basis of a new world order.

19. Many representatives urged UNEP to continue contributing to the preparations for the Conference. One stated that those preparations should include the subjects of transfer of and access to environmentally sound technology, the development of endogenous technology and new and additional resources to support sustainable development. Another suggested that the critical subject of environmental information be included in the UNCED agenda.

20. A number of representatives claimed that UNEP should be strengthened with a view to UNCED and beyond, and several stated the belief that UNCED could only strengthen UNEP further. Many observed that the Conference would recommend the restructuring of the entire United Nations system, UNEP included, in respect of environmental issues and that it was therefore premature to take any decisions concerning UNEP's structure or mandate.

21. A number of representatives expressed the hope that the conventions on climate change and biological diversity would be ready for signature at the Conference. One stated that his Government would oppose any convention on climate change that did not contain concrete commitments for the control of carbon dioxide emissions, as well as resources for the transfer of technology. Echoing this view, another representative insisted upon a climate change framework convention that "had teeth". Several others urged UNEP to concentrate its resources on developing the biological diversity convention as rapidly as possible. However, some stated that, if time constraints adversely affected its quality, they preferred to await a balanced legal text after UNCED.

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Strengthening of UNEP

22. There was a general consensus that UNEP needed strengthening to tackle the work on which it was already engaged and the tasks likely to be entrusted to it in the future. However, many representatives while agreeing that some strengthening of UNEP was needed, considered that decisions on most of the Executive Director's proposals to that end should be postponed until after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had been held in 1992, though one representative said that the imminence of the Conference should not prevent the Governing Council from carrying out its duties. Another representative said that it would be helpful if the secretariat could prepare a comprehensive paper on the future role of UNEP, and the structural changes required, for submission to the Conference.

Independent external evaluation

23. A number of representatives said that, in order to assess UNEP's management and organization, its weak points and its strong points, an independent external evaluation by an outside management consultant should be undertaken and one representative said that such an evaluation should focus more particularly on communications.

Special session of the Governing Council in 1992

24. Concerning the Executive Director's proposal to hold a special session of the Governing Council early in 1992 before the last session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee, a number of representatives said it was important to hold such a session, as it would give the Council an opportunity to consolidate its views and make recommendations to UNCED, and to study and evaluate various reports for submission to the Conference. One representative, supporting the proposed special session prior to UNCED, said there should also be another special session afterwards to consider the outcome of the Conference.

25. A number of representatives said there was insufficient reason to warrant holding a special session in 1992.

26. Several representatives said it might be preferable to hold a special session after UNCED, but before the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to enable the Council to report on how UNEP could respond to UNCED.

27. Referring to the three reports that were to be submitted to the Governing Council at the proposed special session, one representative said that they did not appear to warrant the costs of a session; the resources could be better used for substantive contributions. Another representative considered that the reports should have been submitted to the Council at its current session. Several representatives suggested that the reports be considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and passed, with that Committee's comments, to the UNCED Preparatory Committee.

Membership of the Governing Council

28. Concerning the Executive Director's proposal for an increase in the membership of the Governing Council, several representatives expressed the opinion that there was no need to expand the membership. One of those representatives said that an increase would complicate, rather than improve, the Council's functioning on the threshold of UNCED, which was to decide on the whole system of international environmental co-operation. Some other representatives thought that the proposal required thorough discussion and assessment which, one of them said, should be based on the availability of financial resources and the physical arrangements.

29. Some representatives said that it was essential to allow greater participation by Governments through an increase in the membership of the Governing Council. Others suggested that the Governing Council should embrace all States Members of the United Nations.

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30. In the opinion of one representative, the time was not ripe to increase the size of the Governing Council especially if that were to lead to the creation of an Executive Committee whose mandate could be difficult to regulate.

Annual sessions of the Governing Council

31. A number of representatives supported the Executive Director's proposal regarding the organization of annual sessions of the Governing Council. One of those representatives said that the two-year budget cycle should remain, in the way outlined by the Executive Director. One representative, supporting the increased frequency of Council sessions, considered it a good idea to have discussions focus on specific priority subjects, as proposed by the Executive Director. He went on to say that the dialogue between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives should also be intensified between sessions. One representative said that, given the gravity of the global environmental problems, policy guidance was needed every year and deserved serious attention.

32. One representative, while agreeing that the status of the Governing Council should be enhanced, doubted whether that pointed to increased membership or additional sessions. A more effective solution, he continued, might be to have a smaller Executive Committee, meeting between sessions. Another representative said he preferred the current system of biennial meetings, with special sessions as and when necessary.

33. Several representatives supported the idea of organizing the future work of the Council in two standing committees, which, as one of them said, were a good way of examining routine and administrative matters. The observer for IUCN expressed support for the way in which the current session had been organized, especially in the light of the number of decisions to be considered by the Council. A number of representatives considered that the procedure, as applied at the current session, should be evaluated.

34. One representative said that the experience of the current session was not conclusive; it was not possible to separate completely what came under programme and what came under budget. In his view, a thematic approach was preferable, preceded by a brief budget session to set out the available funding package. Another said that the establishment of executive and standing committees for programme matters and the Environment Fund had financial implications that would not help the implementation of programme. Yet another representative considered that the proposal on standing committees needed further study.

Plenary meetings of the Council on topics of regional concern

35. Some representatives supported the Executive Director's proposal to set aside two plenary meetings of the Council to discuss selected topics of regional concern.

Executive Committee

36. One representative said he was in favour of the establishment of an Executive Committee of the Governing Council with 30 members, while another considered that the proposal deserved further clarification and study.

37. Some representatives opposed the idea of establishing an Executive Committee. One of them feared that such a Committee would diminish the Council's principal role and involve additional financial burdens, without significantly increasing the efficiency of UNEP's activities. Moreover, it would run counter to the practice of other international non-specialized organizations.

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38. Some representatives expressed the view that it would be preferable to strengthen the Committee of Permanent Representatives. One of them considered that it should be given a decision-making function between sessions but that a decision on the matter should await the outcome of UNCED.

39. One representative had reservations regarding the idea of increasing the functions of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which was lacking in equitable geographical distribution, governed as it was by the presence or otherwise of a permanent mission in Nairobi.

Joint bureaux meetings

40. One representative said that, in view of the reported success of the joint bureaux meetings, he wholeheartedly endorsed their continuation. Another supported the institutionalization of such meetings. Some representatives stated that such meetings might not be sufficient to provide the required co-ordination and that other arrangements should also be explored, while another representative was doubtful of the value of holding meetings between the Bureau and the bureaux of other organizations.

UNEP's headquarters site

41. There was a general consensus that UNEP's headquarters should remain in Nairobi and several representatives stressed that none of the UNEP units which were already located there should be moved away. One representative said that a move away from Nairobi would entail a waste of resources.

42. The representative of the host country said that communications for UNEP headquarters were being upgraded with the installation of new, computer-based satellites, one of which would be operational by the end of May. In addition, as a top priority, an ultra-modern communications exchange was being installed at Gigiri to increase the number of circuit lines between UNEP and the central exchange, in order to cope with future demands. Several representatives welcomed the news of the efforts to upgrade the communications facilities for UNEP's headquarters.

An Environment Fund target of $US250 million

43. A number of representatives expressed the view that, while UNEP should aspire to a higher Fund target for the future, the goal of $250 million was somewhat too ambitious, one of them adding that it would be more prudent to plan work programmes based on a lower figure. Another representative foresaw a shortfall in meeting even the 1992 target of $100 million. Yet another expressed the view that recent events in the Gulf region had demonstrated that the "peace dividend" was an illusion.

44. One representative stated that, while an increase in contributions was necessary, there was also a clear need to increase the number of contributors so as to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden. That view was echoed by another representative, who asked the Executive Director to provide a yardstick other than the United Nations scale of assessments for comparing the contributions of the various countries. Endorsing the conclusions of the Fund Committee, another representative urged the Executive Director to seek the guidance of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in setting Fund targets. Yet another stated that increases in the Fund targets should be gradual.

45. By contrast, several representatives fully supported the $250 million target. Indeed, one of them held that any target lower than $250 million would imply that UNEP was unable to discharge its responsibilities.

Environment and economics

46. Numerous representatives stressed the vicious circle of poverty, economic underdevelopment and environmental degradation. One, in particular, echoed the Executive Director's call to replace the traditional system of calculating GNP by a system of natural resource accounting at both the national and international levels adding that, unless the real

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cost of resource use was measured and the consequences of inaction taken into account, it would be difficult to change the behaviour of Governments and people. Further, he stated that an effective strategy for tackling the problems of poverty, development and environment simultaneously should focus initially on people's well-being as well as resources and production, promoting sustainable livelihood and access to it.

47. One representative asked why UNEP had not dealt with the linkage between environment and economics earlier. He also requested the results of the UNEP eco-development projects of the 1970s, on which considerable sums had been spent, adding that UNEP had made no specific recommendations to developing countries after the conclusion of those projects as to how their Governments might incorporate environmental considerations into the development decision-making process. Moreover, he asked what would be needed to make market economics, which were increasingly being imposed upon the world, less environmentally destructive. Another representative maintained that industry, notably transnational corporations, which he characterized as the leaders of international development, must participate with Governments and intergovernmental bodies to protect the environment.

48. The observer for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) informed the Council that sustainable development concerns had been integrated into its work, notably in the areas of commodities, technology, and finance for development. He added that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had recently proposed the establishment of a system of tradeable permits for carbon dioxide emissions.

49. The Chairman of the Business Council for Sustainable Development, stated that, both individually and collectively, Governments had been unwilling or unable to provide market or regulatory signals that would provide an economic rationale for the enhanced protection of common ecosystems. Business wished to contribute substantially to sustainable development, which would require an economic system able to generate surpluses and technical knowledge on a self-reliant and sustained base; a production system that respected the obligation to preserve the economic base for development; a technological system that could search continuously for new solutions; and an international system that fostered sustainable patterns of trade and finance.

The Global Environment Facility

50. Many representatives hailed the establishment of the Global Environment Facility and a number announced their contributions to the new mechanism. One praised its establishment as the most exciting environmental development since the Council's agreement on CFCs; another remarked that, in 1972, it would have been unthinkable for the World Bank to set up a fund to finance the resolution of global environmental problems.

51. Some representatives stated that a clear case for strengthening UNEP lay in the Facility, which could become an important forum for environmental assistance to developing countries; UNEP would ensure that the projects funded by the Facility had the environmental value. One added that such projects could be harmonized with other efforts in international environmental co-operation, especially of legal instruments that were being prepared or that had entered into force. By contrast, another representative, while expressing his appreciation of the creation of the Facility, urged the establishment of innovative funding mechanisms under their respective conventions. Yet another stated that the Facility had the potential of providing an administrative and financing model for conventions and protocols currently being negotiated. Some kind of centrally managed fund was highly preferable to the proliferation of funds, he added, though a central fund would be politically viable only if it made provision for Contracting Parties to participate in decision-making on policy and guidelines for financing activities. In that connection, one representative requested information about the relationship between the

Interim Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol and the way in which the Facility's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel would function. Another expressed his Government's concern about the use of the per capita criterion for accessing funds from the Facility.

52. The observer for UNDP stated that the association of UNEP, the World Bank and his own organization in the Global Environmental Facility had been most fruitful in promoting a closer relationship among all three on environmental matters. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel appointed by Dr. Tolba would significantly influence UNDP thinking on subjects dealt with by the Facility, 12 projects of which, valued at more than $70 million, had been assigned to UNDP.

The International Environmental Technology Centre

53. Several representatives said that technology transfer to developing countries, played a key role in both development and conservation of the environment. Referring to the establishment of an International Environmental Technology Centre, which her Government had proposed to the Governing Council at its second special session, the representative of Japan said she had held intensive discussions with UNEP to work out the details. The Centre would be an integral part of UNEP, and would not represent any duplication of the efforts of other entities.

54. One representative considered that useful progress had been made on consideration of the Centre in the Council, but still wished to be assured on some details of its structure and relationship to other parts of UNEP. Another representative said that, if the preparatory process for the Centre was on the right track, there would be no duplication of efforts. Provided the Centre was clearly an independent UNEP Centre, said another representative, his Government was prepared to support it. One other delegation saw merit in such a centre as a forum of transfer of technology.

55. Another representative considered the idea of a UNEP centre on safe technology to be very useful. Yet another representative, while welcoming any activities to undertake the transfer of environmentally sound technology, said that he shared the concern that the Centre might be a duplication of an existing institution. One other representative strongly endorsed the establishment of the Centre, pointing out that, under its mandate, there must be no duplication of activities with those of UNEP's IEO.

56. One representative welcomed the establishment of self-financed centres of technology transfer and education, networking with existing UNEP offices.

57. Another favoured the development of an international network for non-polluting technologies, based on strengthening UNEP's Industry and Environment Office as a PAC, and supported by the expertise of national and regional centres, in order to transfer technologies.

58. The observer for UNESCO expressed the view that it was first important to strengthen the scientific capabilities of developing countries, since without such a build-up the transfer of technology could not work.

Centre for urgent environmental assistance

59. Many representatives supported the proposal that a centre for urgent environmental assistance be developed, stating that such a centre could begin functioning on an experimental basis before the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held. One representative urged caution lest there should be duplication of work. Another representative suggested that a small working group should be set up to examine the modalities of establishing the centre. The working group would then report to the Conference.

60. Some representatives who supported the establishment of the centre suggested that it should develop an international register of experts for environmental emergencies and, possibly, a register of ecologically

hazardous facilities. Another supported the idea of developing a register of environmental experts, while yet another thought that a treaty of mutual assistance in cases of environmental emergencies, on the lines of the 1986 Vienna conventions, on early notification of a nuclear accident and on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, would be more appropriate than a centre.

World environment academy

61. A number of representatives expressed support for the proposal that a world environment academy be established, and one emphasized that it should be located at UNEP headquarters. One representative said that the proposed academy could be accommodated on the premises of a similar institution that already existed in his country. Another thought that such an academy, if needed, should be the responsibility of an organization other than UNEP, possibly one outside the United Nations system, while some others urged caution so as to avoid duplication of work.

Green Brigade

62. Many representatives expressed their support for the proposed establishment of a corps of volunteers for the environment, to be known as the "Green Brigade" which, they thought, would give a new impetus to environmental activities in many countries. Several representatives felt, however, that a less military title might be more attractive. One representative thought that it might be better to interest the United Nations Volunteers more in green issues.

63. A few representatives thought that the proposal would need to be reformulated to make it clear that the function of the body would be one of networking and support and not the provision of a volunteer service, while another said that such "brigades" might be effective at a purely national level. The observer for the World Conservation Union (IUCN) said that a number of non-governmental organizations were concerned lest the proposed Green Brigade duplicate their activities and support. In the event that the proposal was to be reformulated, he hoped that the relevant NGOs would be consulted first.

Strengthening international environmental law

64. A number of representatives thought that UNEP should play a more active part in strengthening international environmental law, including legal aspects of environmental disputes. One representative considered that UNEP had many more urgent tasks to perform than to act as a mediator or arbitrator in environmental disputes.

65. Some representatives had no objection to UNEP playing a mediatory role, provided it acted at the request of all the Governments concerned and within clearly defined terms of reference. Some other representatives urged caution and suggested that the question be left to the 1992 Conference. One representative suggested that the role of UNEP in environment should be limited to the provision of information to help reconciliation and crisis avoidance, mediation being reserved for regional or subregional organizations.

Verification of the implementation of treaties

66. A number of representatives stressed the importance of monitoring States' fulfilment of their obligations under the treaties that UNEP had helped to develop. One representative proposed regular meeting of the heads of treaty secretariats for that purpose. Another stated that the issue could best be considered by Working Group III of the UNCED Preparatory Committee.

The environmental situation arising from the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait

67. A number of representatives praised UNEP's initiatives in investigating the environmental impact of the hostilities arising from the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, one adding that that particular ecological emergency had demonstrated that Governments and multilateral agencies could respond to such events quickly and effectively. However, another representative remarked that the catastrophe had revealed the need for better co-ordination throughout the United Nations system and, to that end, recommended that UNEP expand its emergency response programme to a network of regional centres based on the regional seas pattern and staffed by middle management UNEP personnel.

68. The observer for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) informed the Council that action by his organization and its member States had been undertaken in the context of the International Convention on Oil Pollution, Preparedness, Response and Co-operation of 1990, adding that, at the request of several Governments, the Secretary-General of IMO had established on 15 March 1991 an international oil pollution disaster fund to facilitate the rapid deployment of equipment and services, to catalyse efforts to combat the oil pollution disaster, to mitigate its environmental impact and to provide a framework to enable Governments to support the international effort under the auspices of IMO.

69. One representative commended UNEP's formulation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Action Plan for the region and stressed the importance of co-operation and co-ordination between UNEP and related bodies such as the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and IMO. She also urged the international community to express its firm determination that destruction of the environment should never be used as a means of armed conflict. That view was echoed by another representative, who suggested the development of a legal instrument prohibiting what she termed "environmental terrorism". She also stated that UNEP, together with other United Nations bodies, should work as soon as possible to reduce the time-lag between the assessment of an environmental catastrophe and response to its impacts. Another representative stressed the importance of developing such concepts as "ecological warfare" and "ecological crime". Yet another condemned chemical warfare under any circumstances.

70. One representative stated that the deteriorating environmental situation in the Gulf region, notably in terms of marine damage, called for even greater efforts by UNEP, perhaps through the Ocean and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre, in collaboration with all agencies concerned with marine pollution. Some representatives warned that the environmental disaster in the Gulf posed a potential danger to the entire planet. One representative complained that the Executive Director's report on the catastrophe made no mention of the environmental damage to his own country, which included severe soil damage and oil spills caused by bombing. It was impossible for his country to clean up the oil spill, he added, because the forces now in charge of the area would not permit his Government to undertake such action. Another stated that the burning oil wells threatened his country and requested that UNEP measure its climatic and other impacts and advise the affected countries on appropriate measures to counteract such damage. The observer for the Commission of the European Communities informed the Council that his organization was currently exploring ways to reduce the negative health effects caused by the burning oil wells in Kuwait.

Effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment

71. Introducing his report on the effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment (UNEP/GC.16/6), the Executive Director explained that the document constituted a response to decision 15/9 of the Governing Council. He expressed the hope that the Council would find no contentious elements in the suggested action contained in the report and that, in dealing with this subject, the Council would retain its customary harmony.

72. No representatives asked for the floor.

Statements by observers

73. Three observers for national liberation movements, namely, Palestine, the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, informed the Governing Council of environmental problems in their countries.

74. The observers for a number of specialized agencies and United Nations bodies and Secretariat units, namely, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, IOC of UNESCO, WHO, WMO, IMO, IAEA, UNDP, UNFPA and UNCTAD, addressed the Governing Council, giving details of their environmental activities and their fruitful co-operation with UNEP.

75. The observer for the Commission of the European Communities made a statement to supplement that of the representative acting as EC spokesman, and the observer for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment gave an account of his organization's activities and close co-operation with UNEP.

76. The observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Greenpeace International, International Council of Environmental Law, World Conservation Union, the World Muslim Congress and the Environment Liaison Centre International informed the Governing Council of their activities. The observers for the Business Council for Sustainable Development and the International Chamber of Commerce gave the Governing Council details of their endeavours to involve the world business community in sustainable development.

Response by the Executive Director to points raised in the discussion

77. Responding to the discussion, the Executive Director said that, despite the many interventions on environment and economics, the Governing Council had not yet given him sufficient guidance on that issue and he appealed to its members to do so. He also reminded the Council that the term "sustainable development" had been coined during its own deliberations at its 1982 session of a special character.

78. Replying to the request for the results of the eco-development projects of the 1970s, he urged that the reports of the regional seminars on those projects be reviewed, stating that some of the recommendations emanating from those seminars had indeed been incorporated into the strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

79. He wished to point out that he had been instructed by the Governing Council to submit proposals concerning the strengthening of UNEP, and had not done so on his own initiative. While he could understand that some representatives might wish to postpone decisions of a structural nature until after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, he failed to comprehend why decisions which were not structural should also be deferred. After all, the forthcoming Conference would deal with development as well as environment, but there had been no suggestion that the activities of UNDP, or the development work of other United Nations bodies should be frozen. It was, nevertheless, gratifying that all member States seemed to agree that UNEP needed strengthening.

80. He noted that the vast majority of the representatives who had spoken were in favour of establishing a centre for urgent environmental assistance on an experimental basis and that a large number of speakers had supported the proposal to establish a world environment academy, while others had indicated doubts rather than opposition.

81. Most representatives had spoken in favour of the establishment of a Green Brigade. Some others might, perhaps, have misconstrued the actual significance of the proposal.

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82. With respect to environmental conflicts, the Executive Director said that his proposals had not, perhaps, been entirely clear. The intention was that UNEP should engage in the prevention of conflict and not conflict resolution, well before the problem reached the International Court of Justice or the Security Council. The regional seas agreements constituted a model in that regard.

83. As for the verification of compliance with treaty obligations, that was of course a matter for the Contracting Parties to the treaty in question. The Governing Council itself could not enter into the verification process; it could only recommend to Contracting Parties how and in what ways they could verify their compliance with the instruments they had ratified. In addition, the Council might invite the heads of the secretariats of the major conventions to meet to pool their information, as reported by the contracting parties, and supply such information and their comments on the subject to the parties.

84. Responding to a variety of points on the Fund target issue, the Executive Director expressed his gratitude to all those countries that had increased their contributions to the Fund. Agreeing with those who had drawn attention to the imbalance in contributions, he stated that he himself had raised that issue in 1982 when first asked for comparisons with the United Nations assessment scale. He observed that the imbalance lay among the developed countries which had furnished 92.6 per cent of Fund resources.

85. He indicated, too, that he was not particularly surprised by the general reluctance to endorse to the $250 million target, which had been manifest the previous year, but warned that the approved programme for 1992 could not be carried out unless the $100 million target for that year was reached.

86. The proposal that a special session of the Governing Council be held before UNCED was based on a legal necessity. The General Assembly had asked the Secretary-General for a consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, to go to the Assembly and to UNCED through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council. If the Governing Council wished to be relieved of the task of considering the report, it would have to address itself to the General Assembly but, in any event, it was required to decide how to deal with the matter. Explaining why the reports had not been presented to the Council at its current session, as proposed by one representative, he pointed out that they would not be ready until December 1991 at the earliest.

87. The Executive Director also urged the Council to reach a decision concerning the report on desertification which the General Assembly had asked it to prepare.

88. As the members of the Council were aware, UNEP had been having some communication troubles at Gigiri. He had himself discussed the matter with the Kenyan authorities and was most gratified by the assurances given by the representative of the host country during the discussion.

The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

89. The Executive Director said that the report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.16/5) had been prepared at the request of the Governing Council (decision 15/8), which had declared that the previous report (UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.2) was inadequate and needed to be updated. The new report was to be a comprehensive one based on the findings of a group of consultants.

90. Requests for information had been sent to the Governments concerned and to the United Nations specialized agencies. Information had been supplied by the Governments of Egypt, Jordan and Syria and by the

delegation of Palestine. Some specialized agencies had supplied material, while others had stated that their documentation was too voluminous to supply and had invited the consultants to examine it and select what they required.

91. As the report made clear (paras. 11 and 12), much of the information from the various sources was conflicting, and the group of consultants had endeavoured to give an objective view. Paragraph 86 of the report contained some recommendations.

92. One representative said that his delegation had strong views on the report, which was a tendentious document. He objected to its entire approach, which brought in many irrelevant issues having little or nothing to do with the environmental situation in the occupied territories. His delegation supported UNEP efforts to assess the environmental situation in the occupied territories, or anywhere else in the world, but the current report showed that the concern it had expressed at Governing Council decision 15/8 was well-founded - continued consideration of this issue involved UNEP and the Governing Council in matters outside UNEP's purview and risked politicizing UNEP and the Governing Council's business.

93. Several representatives deplored the occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories, which had resulted in a deterioration in their environment. Examples they mentioned were deforestation, the diversion of rivers, excessive extraction of groundwater and the use of suffocating, toxic and polluting gases which were harmful to health and to the ecosystem. One of those representatives said that the immigration of Jews from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Ethiopia would impose a further strain on the limited resources of the occupied territories and result in further environmental deterioration.

94. The observer for Palestine said that, despite the difficulties involved in collecting the information, the group of consultants had produced a worthy report. He noted that no consultant had been able to visit the occupied territories (para. 6) and wondered why. The use of toxic gases in the occupied territories had caused illnesses, miscarriages and deaths of children.

95. Water was a scarce resource in the territories and required careful environmental management. Settlements were still being built, leading to a strain on natural resources and consequent desertification. On the West Bank, 80 per cent of the water available was used by the occupying forces, which were also exploiting the water resources of the Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

96. The Executive Director said that he had always attempted to avoid bringing politics into environmental matters, and would continue to do so. In the case of the report under consideration, he had simply obeyed the instructions given him by the Governing Council in its decision 15/8.

Action by the Council

97. The Governing Council then proceeded to consider and adopt, at its 8th meeting, a number of decisions on matters arising out of the Executive Director's reports, namely, decisions 16/1, 16/2, 16/3, 16/4, 16/7, 16/8, 16/9, 16/10. 16/11, 16/12, 16/13 and 16/14. The text of these decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paragraphs 1-13 and 16-47, above.

Chapter IV

STATE-OF-THE-ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

1. In considering this item, at its 7th meeting, on 29 May, the Council had before it the following documentation: progress report on comprehensive 1992 state-of-the-environment report (UNEP/GC.16/7); the 1990 state-of-the-environment report ("Children and the environment") (UNEP/GC.16/8); the 1991 state-of-the-environment report ("State of the world environment") (UNEP/GC.16/9); the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues (UNEP/GC.16/9/Add.1); and the report of the Executive Director on hazardous environmental events (UNEP/GC.16/9/Add.2).

2. Introducing the item, the Executive Director said that one of the main problems in preparing reports on the state of the environment was the very limited monitoring data received from developing countries. Most of the data provided to the secretariat were from developed countries, which gave rise to an unavoidable slant in the presentation. Time-series data in particular, going back up to 10 years, were unavailable from developing countries, which lacked the capacities for such monitoring. He hoped that the members of the Council would call on Governments to build and strengthen such capacities in those countries. Referring to the comprehensive report covering the period from 1982-1992, he said that the goal of completing such a large-scale publication by 1992, instead of 1993 as originally projected, presented major logistical time-frame problems. However, in co-operation with the editors and authors, he would do his utmost to meet the earlier deadline.

3. A number of representatives expressed the hope that the comprehensive report would be an authoritative statement on the condition of the planet. Presentation of a first-class and well-balanced report to Rio, said one representative, would be the best possible evidence of UNEP's unique expertise.

4. One representative, expressing the hope that the comprehensive report could be ready for presentation to UNCED, said that in the report the role of environmental information should be stressed, together with the interlinked subjects of resource - and environmental accounting, as well as environmental indicators. He considered that the section on the Arctic in the Executive Director's report on emerging environmental issues was too brief, since that area needed a great deal of attention.

5. Another representative, expressing support for UNEP's work on environmental data reporting, stressed the need for further registration of environmental data, especially over time. Such data were vital in ensuring compliance with agreements made on the environment and in assessing the need for new ones.

6. One representative, expressing agreement with the way in which the issue of municipal waste had been presented in the Executive Director's report on emerging environmental issues, stressed the need to give high priority to that subject, together with the issue of drinking water quality.

7. The 1990 state-of-the-environment report, dealing with the effects of the environment on children, was singled out by one representative, who hoped that UNEP would continue to focus on the protection of children.

Action by the Council

8. The Council then proceeded to consider and adopt, at its 8th meeting, a number of decisions on state-of-the-environment reports (decisions 16/15 A to C, 16/16 and 16/17). The text of these decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paras. 49-55, above.

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Chapter V

CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

1. As decided by the Council at its 1st plenary meeting (see chapter I, para. 14, above), agenda item 6 (a) and those parts of item 6 (b) dealing with the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification were discussed in the Programme Committee. The discussion on these parts of the item are to be found in the Programme Committee's report, which is reproduced in annex II to the present proceedings.

2. In considering the remaining parts of the item, at its 7th meeting, on 29 May, the Council had before it the following documentation: chapter II of the 1989 Annual Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/2); chapter II of the 1990 Annual Report of the Executive Director, (UNEP/GC.16/3); the report of the Executive Director on strengthening of inter-agency co-ordination mechanisms related to the environment (UNEP/GC.16/10); part I of the 1989 report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session (UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1 (English and French only)); part I of the 1990 Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session (UNEP/GC.16/12); Secretary-General's progress report on the follow-up and implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 (A/46/138-E/1991/52, transmitted to the Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/14)); and memorandum of understanding concerning co-operation between UNEP and other agencies of the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.16/Inf.3). It also had before it a draft decision on the reports of ACC submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.12).

3. Introducing those parts of the item, the Executive Director stated that UNEP served as the secretariat for many important inter-agency co-ordination mechanisms, namely, the Designated Officials on Environmental Matters (DOEM), the Committee on International Development Institutions for the Environment (CIDIE), the Ecosystems Conservation Group (ECG), and the Inter-agency Working Group on Desertification (IAWGD). In response to signals from partner-agencies that better secretariat services were required, he had assigned two of his special assistants to those functions. In addition, he was requesting two junior Professional staff members to assist in that work.

4. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227, covering earlier Assembly resolutions on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the Executive Director stated that the report in question had been submitted to the Governing Council for transmission to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

5. One representative questioned the adequacy of existing co-ordination machinery, notably ACC and DOEM, stressing the fact that the latter, which had been established to replace the Environment Co-ordination Board, lacked a clear legal basis. Further, he stated that an institutional structure commensurate with current environmental challenges should be established. A number of others supported the proposal to revive the Environment Co-ordination Board with an expansion of its initial mandate so that it might serve as an Environment and Development Co-ordination Board. Another stated that that proposal merited further consideration. Still another suggested that a new environmental co-ordinating body, composed of senior officials of every United Nations body concerned with environmental action, be established under a United Nations under-secretary-general.

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6. As for the Executive Director's proposal that a new unit be established within UNEP for co-ordination, a number of representatives remarked that, since co-ordination was a major part of UNEP's mandate, the entire UNEP secretariat, rather than a single unit, should deal with that function.

Action by the Council

7. The Council then proceeded to consider and adopt, at its 8th meeting, a number of decisions on co-ordination questions (decisions 16/18, 16/19, 16/20 and 16/21). The text of the decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paragraphs 56-63, above.

Chapter VI

PROGRAMME MATTERS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, para. 14 above), agenda item 7 was discussed in the Programme Committee. The Committee's report on its discussions is reproduced as annex II to the present proceedings.

2. Having taken note of the report of the Committee and having considered the draft decisions approved by it (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr. 1), the Council, at its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May, adopted a number of decisions on matters falling under this item (decisions 16/22 to 16/25 and 16/30 to 16/43). The text of the decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paras. 64-81 and 86-120, above.

Chapter VII

THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, para. 14, above), agenda item 8 was discussed in the Fund Committee. The Committee's report on its discussions is reproduced as annex III to the present proceedings.

2. Having taken note of the report of the Committee and having considered the draft decisions approved by it (UNEP/GC.16/L.19), the Council, at its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May, adopted a number of decisions on matters falling under this item (decisions 16/44 to 16/47). The text of these decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paras. 121-125, above.

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Chapter VIII

PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. The Council considered agenda item 9 at the 8th plenary meeting of the session, on 31 May. It had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the seventeenth regular session of the Council, together with a draft provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.16/L.42). The proposal was adopted and the draft provisional agenda approved without change. The text of the decision is included in annex I to the present proceedings.

Chapter IX

OTHER MATTERS

1. Under agenda item 10, the Council considered the following matters: rationalization of Governing Council documentation; cholera and microbial pollution of the coastal waters of the South-East Pacific; and, assistance to Bangladesh on environmental matters in the make of the devastating cyclone.

2. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, the Council adopted three decisions on the above-mentioned matters (decisions 16/5, 16/28 and 16/29). The text of the decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above (paras. 15-16 and 82-85).

Chapter X

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

1. The present proceedings were adopted at the 8th plenary meeting of the session, on 31 May 1991, on the basis of the draft proceedings circulated as document UNEP/GC.16/L.13 and Add. 1 and 2.

2. At the same meeting, the Council also took note of the reports of the Programme Committee and the Fund Committee, which are reproduced in annex II and annex III to the present proceedings.

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Chapter XI

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

1. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May 1991, after the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the sixteenth session of the Council closed.

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Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION

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16/1. *Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which the United Nations Environment Programme was established,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 that established the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to integrate the twin issues of Environment and Development,

Aware of Governing Council decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 that reaffirmed the United Nations Environment Programme's essential role as the central catalysing, co-ordinating and stimulating body in the field of the environment within the United Nations system,

Noting the growing need for even more effective co-ordination as well as direction of the ever-increasing variety and intensity of environmentally related activities throughout the United Nations system, as well as the larger international context in which the United Nations system operates,

Noting the overall efficiency of the operation of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, in particular the cost and efficiency advantages of using centralized facilities,

1. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that more effective arrangements be provided to ensure the effective and comprehensive co-ordination and direction of environmental activities in the United Nations system to enable it to meet the new and expanding requirements placed upon it by the ever increasing complexity of global environmental challenges facing the international community, taking into account the Programme's mandate on global environmental issues;

2. *Supports* the strengthening of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme and the retaining of the programme activity centres already located there in view of the success the United Nations Environment Programme has achieved from this venue;

3. *Invites* the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, when considering institutional aspects of environmental activities in the United Nations system, to take fully into account the views and decisions of the Governing Council and the resolutions of the General Assembly regarding the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. *Decides* that future major extensions to the physical or other infrastructure of the Programme, particularly those with global functions, be centred principally in Nairobi;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to inform all States of offers from Governments of major new facilities to be sited outside Nairobi and to seek comments for his guidance;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of providing on-site interpretation facilities and to continue negotiations with the host Government with a view to improving the facilities available at the headquarters office in Nairobi, including external communication services, and to report progress to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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16/2. *Integration of environment and development*

The Governing Council,

Conscious of the need to integrate on a permanent basis the twin issues of environment and development in the work of the United Nations system and in the perspective and follow-up action to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in a way that reflects the aspirations and expectations of all countries,

Recognizing that concern for global environmental problems and resource allocations thereto must complement, and not detract attention from, efforts by the world community to support sustainable development, to eliminate constraints to the achievement of that goal and to combat poverty, which is both a cause and a consequence of environmental degradation,

1. *Decides* that the seventeenth session of the Governing Council will particularly focus on the integration of environment and development in the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and in the follow-up actions arising from the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director and the secretariat of the Programme to contribute actively to the solution of the problems of technology transfer to the developing countries, particularly in the pursuit of the concept of sustainable development;

3. *Suggests* that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development considers the feasibility of linking existing environmental data bases with any new systems for collection of development data, generated by the Conference process to help countries to take account of environmental concerns in their development planning;

4. *Recommends* that the Preparatory Committee elaborate a strategy to assist developing countries to access and retrieve such data;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that all documentation for future sessions of the Governing Council reflects an integrated approach to developmental and environmental concerns, as appropriate;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to bring the present decision to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/3. *Special session of the Governing Council in 1992*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 on strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the introductory report of the Executive Director, including his recommendations to further strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme and to hold a special session of the Governing Council in 1992,[1]

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[1] UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.6 and Corr.1.

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 by which it was decided to convene a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Considering that the Council requested the Executive Director at its fifteenth session, in 1989, to prepare a state-of-the-environment report for submission to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,[2]

Also considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through its Preparatory Committee, after consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, a report on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing,

Further considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/227 of 22 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through, *inter alia*, the Governing Council, a consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987,

1. *Decides* to hold a three-day special session of the Governing Council from 3 to 5 February 1992 in Nairobi;

2. *Calls upon* Governments to be represented at this session at ministerial or equivalent level;

3. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the special session, as annexed to the present decision.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

Annex

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Consideration of the synthesis state-of-the-environment report to be presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing.

6. Consideration of the Secretary-General's consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187.

7. Adoption of the report.

8. Closure of the session.

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[2] Decision 15/13 A, paragraph 7, of 23 May 1989.

16/4. *Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implications for the Governing Council of the challenges and demands for the 1990s,[3]

Taking into consideration the views expressed in the general debate at the present session of the Council,[4]

Requests the Executive Director to bring his proposals on the organization of the plenary meetings of the Governing Council to the attention of the Council at the seventeenth session, taking into account the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/5. *Rationalization of Governing Council documentation*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 on strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly section II of that decision, concerning the role of the Governing Council,

Also recalling its decision 14/5 of 17 June 1987 on the rationalization of documentation for meetings of the Governing Council,

Further recalling that, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, documents are to be prepared and distributed at least forty-two days in advance of sessions of the Council,

Concerned about the volume of documentation for regular sessions of the Council, which has, on occasion, prevented timely distribution in accordance with the rules of procedure,

Desirous of reducing the extremely heavy workload of the secretariat of the Programme in connection with the processing of Council documents in the months immediately preceding sessions of the Council,

Conscious of the importance of a number of documents being submitted to the Council primarily for information,

Aware of the difficulties of providing, in a single operative Governing Council document, all the necessary information for each substantive agenda item,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To continue his efforts, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to rationalize and reduce the documentation produced for the sessions of the Governing Council;

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[3] UNEP/GC.16/4 and Corr.1 and 2, paras. 43-64.

[4] See chapter III of the proceedings of the Governing Council at its sixteenth session (UNEP/GC.16/27).

(b) To continue to issue in all official languages and circulate to all Governments, on an annual basis, his Annual Report and his annual state-of-the-environment report and, on a biennial basis, the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment, but not as official documents of the Governing Council;

(c) To submit to the Council, at each regular session, a brief executive summary of the relevant Annual Reports and the state-of-the-environment reports, highlighting the policy issues involved and the proposed suggested action by the Council;

(d) To discontinue forthwith the so-called "summary" documents for each agenda item;

(e) To discontinue, as far as possible, the practice of re-issuing documents originating from other United Nations bodies but of relevance to the Governing Council and, instead, to issue only short notes indicating the subject-matter and official symbols of the documents in question and making it clear that those documents will not be circulated by the secretariat;

(f) To continue to issue a comprehensive annotated provisional agenda along the lines of the one distributed at the sixteenth session of the Council;[5]

(g) To continue to put a short summary on the cover page of each document;

(h) To include in each substantive document a brief section highlighting elements that could be included in a decision on the subject concerned;

2. *Requests* its Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue to submit, as early as possible to the Council at each regular session, whatever draft decisions the Committee deems necessary, it being clearly understood that submission of such draft decisions by the Committee does not imply the agreement or endorsement of those decisions by any single Government or group of Governments;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to investigate the possibility of making official documents of the Governing Council available via electronic data networks, provided that each and every State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency has access to such facilities;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to examine ways and means of helping Governments, particularly those of developing countries, to make use of such facilities;

5. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme to accelerate the development of electronic mailing systems for public information uses.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[5] UNEP/GC.16/Add.1 and Corr.1 (French only).

16/6. *Review of the organization and management of the United Nations Environment Programme*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 on international and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation, by which the United Nations Environment Programme was established,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/184 of 11 December 1987 on international co-operation in the field of the environment, particularly its paragraph 13, by which the General Assembly requested that the essential catalytic and co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme be further developed,

Further recalling its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 on strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also the introductory report of the Executive Director to the Council at its present session and the addenda thereto, including his recommendations to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 by which it was decided to convene a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Considering that an independent external evaluation of the organization and management of the United Nations Environment Programme could identify new elements to reinforce the capacity of the Programme and its management to respond to its future responsibilities,

1. *Asserts* that a better substantive knowledge of the present capacities and management structure of the United Nations Environment Programme can help in planning adequate responses to the challenges ahead, including those resulting from the conclusions to be reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

2. *Decides to invite* the Executive Director to engage, after tender and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, an internationally recognized consultancy firm to assess the management and organization of the United Nations Environment Programme and to make the results available to Governments before 1 February 1992;

3. *Also decides* that, in the light of the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Executive Director should commission a second-phase study, which would advise on the future management and organization of the United Nations Environment Programme, and submit that study to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session;

4. *Decides further* that the terms of reference for the first-phase study should include, *inter alia*, the following elements:

(a) An assessment of the present functioning and capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme, based on a comprehensive analysis of its internal management and organization, including, *inter alia*, the areas of financial and administrative efficiency, staffing, personnel structure, decision-making, and infrastructure, bearing in mind the legislative mandates contained in relevant decisions of the Governing Council, relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and comments made by delegations at the present session of the Governing Council;

(b) The need for the United Nations Environment Programme to maintain or, where appropriate, enhance flexibility and efficiency in its operations in light of the conclusions drawn under the above analysis, changing demands on the Programme, the need to ensure sound co-ordination among both programme and administrative support units, the need to improve further the ability of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its catalytic and co-ordinating role within the United Nations system, and the need to improve communications with United Nations organizations, with Governments and other international organizations;

(c) The importance of the consultancy firm consulting all relevant documents and staff members throughout the study, avoiding, however, unnecessary diversion of staff members from their regular duties;

5. *Notes* that Governments will have views on the elements to be included in the terms of reference for the second-phase study, in the light of, *inter alia*, the conclusions of the first phase and decides that these views will be discussed by the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/7. *Volunteers for the environment*

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind that the responsiveness of the United Nations system in the field of environment and development will be reviewed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the establishment of a "Green Brigade", [6]

Recognizing that there is a broadly based desire among individuals of all ages in countries in all parts of the globe to take a more active part in environmental activities at the local and national level in their own countries through community organizations, and that individuals and organizations are increasingly expressing interest in exchanging information and experiences with similar groups in other countries, and seeking assistance and guidance from United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in developing suitable environmental action programmes,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, as appropriate and within available resources, to provide information services, data, publications and reports, and technical advice, as requested, to assist non-governmental organizations and community organizations to participate in environmental activities at the local and national level in their own countries;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult with representatives of relevant and competent national and international non-governmental organizations and explore further the modalities of co-operation with such organizations and to report on the subject to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[6] UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.2, paras. 26-33.

16/8. *World environment academy*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on a world environment academy,[7]

Realizes that the establishment of a world environment academy should be considered within the context of discussion on legal and institutional issues which is taking place in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and requests the Executive Director to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee and to report thereon to the Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/9 *United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.II/1 of 3 August 1990, in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to submit a report on, *inter alia*, the establishment of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance,

Recalling also its decision 15/10 of 25 May 1989, particularly the operative part by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, *inter alia*, to assess, as a result of the consultations with Governments and United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and competent regional organizations, the advisability of establishing such a centre and the financial implications if any,

Recalling further the General Assembly resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987 establishing the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and 44/228 of 22 December 1989 concerning the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting with concern that environmental emergencies have continued to have a devastating effect on human life and the environment,

Convinced that co-operation amongst Governments and United Nations bodies and other competent regional organizations is vital in facing the challenges posed by environmental emergencies,

Having taken note of the 1989 report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session[8] and, in particular, its paragraph 23 in which the Committee indicates the importance it attaches to the full participation of the United Nations system in the assessment of the proposed centre,

Taking into account the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination contained in paragraph 12 of its 1990 report to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session,[9]

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[7] UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.3 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2.

[8] UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1 (English and French only).

[9] UNEP/GC.16/12.

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Noting that environmental emergencies were the subject of discussion at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, during which the Assembly also approved resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, in which it, *inter alia*, recognized the need to strengthen international co-operation in monitoring, assessing and anticipating environmental threats,

Noting also that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is considering, *inter alia*, appropriate responses to industrial accidents,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on a proposed United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance;[10]

2. *Welcomes* the participation of the United Nations agencies in the assessment of the capacity of the United Nations to deal with environmental emergencies;

3. *Notes* that the analysis of the responses received to date indicates the need to improve the capacity of the United Nations to respond efficiently to environmental emergencies;

4. *Endorses* the Executive Director's proposal to proceed with the development, on an experimental basis, of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance acting in co-operation and in co-ordination with other United Nations agencies, focusing on assessment of and responses to man-made environmental emergencies. This mechanism will act upon the request of the Government concerned and maintain rosters of experts and a list of appropriate equipment to be used in such emergencies, ensuring that this does not duplicate the existing activities and responsibilities under existing international treaties and of other United Nations bodies in these fields and maintaining proper liaison with them;

5. *Decides* to establish the above-mentioned mechanism on an experimental basis at the beginning of 1992 for a period of eighteen months with the appropriation proposed by the Executive Director to cover up to four Professional staff members and a senior consultant as the necessary support staff;

6. *Requests* Governments to support the experimental mechanism by providing any necessary complementary financial and material resources;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session, for its consideration in the context of the preparatory process for the Conference;

8. *Further requests* the Executive Director to undertake, in consultation with other members of the United Nations system, an evaluation of the activities of the body and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[10] UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.2, paras. 11-25.

16/10. *Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/190 of 21 December 1990 on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant,

Welcoming the efforts made by the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl,

Welcoming also the appointment of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna as co-ordinator of activities related to Chernobyl,

Expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects on people's lives and health of the disaster at Chernobyl, which has had national and international consequences of unprecedented scale,

Noting with gratitude the contribution made by a number of States Members of the United Nations to the development of co-operation to minimize the consequences of the accident and the provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected population, particularly children,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, in the study of global environmental problems of the sort arising out of the disaster at Chernobyl,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the co-ordinator of the Chernobyl programmes of the United Nations and taking into account the work carried out by relevant international organizations, to consider the possibilities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the practical implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/190;

2. *Exhorts* the States Members of the United Nations to participate in any activities of United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, which may address the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/11. *Military conflicts and the environment*

A. *The environmental consequences of the armed conflict in the Gulf area*

The Governing Council,

Expressing its concern about the environmental damage that occurred during the armed conflict in the Gulf area, which resulted in the pollution of the waters of the area by oil, air pollution from burning oil wells and other environmental damage to the surrounding areas,

Further concerned that the environmental damage has spread and is spreading to other regions,

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Expressing its appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for sending an expert mission to the area to make the preliminary impact assessment of the environmental situation,

Expressing its satisfaction at the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the other international agencies and at the participation of the international community in the response to the marine and air pollution in the Gulf region,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the environmental consequences of the armed conflict between Iraq and Kuwait,[11]

Noting with concern the magnitude of the environmental problem the solution of which requires concerted efforts by the international community,

Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To increase his efforts further to enhance co-operation among and promote greater involvement of the United Nations agencies and organizations, intergovernmental organizations and Governments willing and able to provide the expertise and resources needed to deal with the environmental impacts in the affected and threatened regions;

(b) To revitalize further the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and to strengthen its secretariat and its marine emergency mutual aid centre, in order to contribute to the solution of the regional environmental problems resulting from the armed conflict;

(c) To assist other regional organizations concerned in this exercise without prejudice to the funding or other resources allocated by the United Nations Environment Programme and other agencies for work in this field;

(d) To submit to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session an updated version of the report called for in paragraph 2 of its decision 16/17 of 31 May 1991 on developments with respect to the environmental situation and the extent of the work accomplished, as well as a re-assessment of the environmental situation in the affected and threatened regions.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. *Environmental effects of warfare*

The Governing Council,

Concerned about the serious effects on the environment caused by modern warfare,

Aware of the general prohibition on employing methods or means of warfare which are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread long-term and severe damage to the natural environment, laid down in the 1977 Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts[12] and of the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques,[13]

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[11] UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.1.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17512.

[13] General Assembly resolution 31/72, annex.

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Also aware of the appeal of the General Assembly adopted by consensus at its forty-fifth session [14] to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that have not yet done so, to consider becoming parties also to the additional protocols at the earliest possible date,

1. *Appeals* to Governments in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against any other State;

2. *Recommends* that Governments consider identifying weapons, hostile devices and ways of using such techniques that would cause particularly serious effects on the environment and consider efforts in appropriate forums to strengthen international law prohibiting such weapons, hostile devices and way of using such techniques.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/12. *Effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/9 B of 18 June 1987 and 15/9 of 25 May 1989,

Recalling also the various resolutions condemning chemical warfare adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, including resolution 2162 B (XXI) of 5 December 1966, resolution 2603 A (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, and resolution 44/115 B of 15 December 1989,

Having reviewed the report of the Executive Director on the effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment, [15]

Considering that chemical warfare not only represents a most serious threat to human health and life but also has an anti-environmental dimension, which could attain the level of mass or even total destruction of ecosystems,

1. *Condemns unequivocally* chemical warfare;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Executive Director on the effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to make his report available to the Conference on Disarmament.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/13. *The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/8 of 25 May 1989 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

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[14] General Assembly resolution 45/38.

[15] UNEP/GC.16/6.

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Taking note with appreciation of the Executive Director's report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories [16], several parts of which confirmed the deterioration of the environmental situation in those territories,

Expressing its concern over the impact of the military rule on the management of the environment and its natural resources in a way that hinders the pursuit of environmentally sound management,

Recalling also the relevant decisions and resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Expresses once again its concern* that the Israeli occupying authorities are persisting in their practices, which include confiscation of land and water resources, destruction of houses and forcible eviction and expulsion of the Arab population, the establishment of new settlements in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the felling of trees over large areas, and the use of health-impairing gases with hazardous environmental impacts for the Palestinian and other Arab populations, as well as for agricultural production and the socio-economic conditions in those territories;

2. *Expresses* its regret that Israel did not provide the information requested, which meant that a complete data base on the occupied Arab territories could not be prepared;

3. *Stresses* the need for Israel, as occupying power, to respond to the Council's decisions to enable the data base on the occupied territories to be completed in order to conserve the natural resources, halt environmental deterioration and reinforce the quality of life in those territories;

4. *Stresses* the need for Israel to bear its responsibility as the occupying power by taking the necessary measures to conserve the natural resources, halt environmental deterioration, protect the human environment and ensure the well-being of the citizens in the occupied territories, in accordance with the Charter and principles of the United Nations;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director, pending the achievement by the United Nations of a political solution to the question of the occupied territories, which, it is hoped, will occur in the near future, to take the actions and measures capable of halting environmental deterioration in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and to provide the necessary assistance for protecting the natural resources in the area and for securing harmonious living conditions for the entire population;

6. *Urges* the international community to provide various forms of support and assistance for the implementation of this decision;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to take all necessary measures to complete the data base of information about the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and to follow up the implementation of the present decision and report on the progress made to the Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[16] UNEP/GC.16/5.

16/14. *Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 15/16 and 15/17 of 25 May 1989,

Taking into consideration the decisions of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Port of Spain on 22 and 23 October 1990,[17]

Recognizing the need to intensify and co-ordinate regional and subregional co-operation for the conservation and protection of the environment, within the framework of regional development plans,

Welcoming the approval of the Governments of the region of the Regional Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean[18] and their expressed commitment to the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development adopted at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Mexico City from 4 to 7 March 1991,

Recognizing the interest of the Governments of the region in strengthening and implementing the regional programmes identified in annex I of the final report of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment,

1. *Endorses* the decisions of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To support the plans and programmes being implemented in the region in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean following the guidelines set out in the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development;

(b) To provide for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan in the supplementary and core programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(c) To accord priority in the allocation of resources to the implementation of the eight regional programmes that form the basis of the Regional Action Plan and the initiation of the four new basic regional programmes elaborated in annex I of the final report of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting;

(d) To provide support for ongoing consultations and co-ordination among the Governments of the region on implementation of the Action Plan;

(e) To provide support to the Governments of the region in the preparation and implementation of national environment plans and strategies;

(f) To give effect to the expressed wish of the Governments of the region to forge partnership between and among the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility, to implement the proposals of the Regional Action Plan;

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[17] UNEP/LAC-IG.VII/4, annex I.

[18] *Ibid.*, annex II.

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(g) To maintain and increase support for the programme and activities being carried out within the framework of the action plans for the South-East Pacific and the Wider Caribbean regions and to encourage participating States to fulfil their pledges and commitments to the funds established for this purpose.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/15. *State-of-the-environment reports*

A. *The 1990 state-of-the-environment report, "Children and the environment"*

The Governing Council,

Noting with appreciation the 1990 report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment, [19]

Also noting with appreciation the co-operation of the United Nations Children's Fund in the preparation of the report,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, [20]

Recalling the various articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November 1989, [21] and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children, in New York on 30 September 1990, [22]

1. *Emphasizes* that inter-generational equity implies that:

(a) Each generation is required to conserve and utilize the natural resource base in an environmentally sustainable manner and pay due attention to the conservation of its cultural inheritance, so that it does not restrict the options of future generations;

(b) Each generation is required to maintain and improve the quality of the planet so that it is passed on in better condition than it was received;

(c) Each generation should provide its members with equitable access to the benign legacy of past generations;

2. *Emphasizes also* that poverty, underdevelopment, inadequate health and sanitation services, and environmental degradation are the main causes of mortality, morbidity and stunted growth and development of children;

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[19] UNEP/GC.16/8.

[20] *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[21] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[22] A/45/625, annex.

3. *Stresses* the fact that children have the greatest stake in the preservation of the environment and its judicious management for sustainable development as their survival and development depends on it;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to accord high priority within the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to activities directly related to the achievement of relevant goals and strategies enunciated in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration in the 1990s. In particular, priority should be given to:

(a) Formal and informal environmental education of children;

(b) Programmes to enhance the environmental awareness of children;

(c) Programmes to enhance the environmental awareness and the active participation of women in environmental protection measures for their health and well-being and for that of their children;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Director to include in his 1992 Annual Report paragraphs regarding the implementation of the action required by paragraph 4 of the present decision.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. *The 1991 state-of-the-environment report, "The state of the world environment 1991"*

Having considered the 1991 report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment, [a]

1. *Takes note* of the 1991 report of the Executive Director on the state of the world environment;

2. *Calls to the attention* of all Governments the salient features and findings of the report;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director within the environment programme:

(a) To continue to accord high priority to the negotiation of a convention on biological diversity;

(b) To accelerate activities related to the environmentally sound management of shared water resources;

(c) To continue to develop and strengthen measures to facilitate improved protection and sustainable development of ocean and coastal resources and to address more effectively the serious growing problem of land-based sources of marine pollution.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

C. *The 1992 and 1993 state-of-the-environment reports*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 13/9 D of 24 May 1985, in which it decided, *inter alia*, that the state-of-the-environment reports should alternate in successive years between a report on economic and social aspects of the environment and a report on environmental data and assessment,

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[a] UNEP/GC.16/9.

Also recalling its decision 15/13 A of 23 May 1989, in which it requested the Executive Director to prepare, *inter alia*, a comprehensive report on the state of the environment for submission to the Council at its seventeenth regular session, in 1993, and a brief analytical report on changes in the state of the world environment since 1972 for presentation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992,

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Director's progress report on the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report ("Twenty years after Stockholm"); [24]

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to expedite the preparations for the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report covering the twenty years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, for it to be available at the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and to be available for the Council at its seventeenth regular session, in 1993;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to prepare the 1992 state-of-the-environment report on the issue of poverty and environment.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/16. *Emerging environmental issues*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/13 B of 23 May 1989,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues; [25]

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to bring to the attention of all Governments the emerging issues included in his reports, ensuring that environmental issues which have already emerged during the past few years are not lost sight of;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to review the issue of new technologies, with particular reference to their environmental impacts;

(b) To include in his 1993 report on emerging environmental issues a detailed examination of the following emerging issues: re-use of waste water; volatile organic compounds in air; and tropospheric ozone; and ensure that these studies include specific recommendations on appropriate measures for ameliorating problems identified and that the studies relating to re-use of waste water embrace all geographical regions of the world;

(c) To include in his 1993 report on emerging environmental issues a brief update of those issues dealt with in his 1991 report.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[24] UNEP/GC.16/7.

[25] UNEP/GC.16/9/Add.1.

16/17. *Hazardous environmental events*

The Governing Council,

Recalling section II of its decision 11/1 of 24 May 1983,

Noting the report of the Executive Director on the Alaskan oil spill, [a]

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the environmental implications of the Iraq/Kuwait conflict, [b]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to bring to the attention of all Governments the events described in the above-mentioned reports;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare as soon as possible a full scientific report on the environmental effects of the Iraq/Kuwait conflict, to make it available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme and to update the report on a regular basis;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to keep under review the different environmental events, including the long-term impacts of the Alaskan oil spill and major disasters in other geographical regions of the world, with special reference to Africa and its subregions, and to report on these matters to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/18. *Enhancing United Nations co-ordination of environmental activities*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which established the United Nations Environment Programme to provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system and also established an Environment Co-ordination Board to provide for the most efficient co-ordination of United Nations environmental activities,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, which merged the Environment Co-ordination Board with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, by which the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and further decided, *inter alia*, to review and examine the role of the United Nations system in dealing with the environment and possible ways of improving it,

Noting the establishment and effective performance of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters, under the chairmanship of the United Nations Environment Programme, in serving as a means of co-ordinating the environmentally related activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and related efforts, especially in the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme,

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[a] UNEP/GC.16/9/Add.2.

[b] UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.1.

Noting further the growing need for even more effective co-ordination, as well as direction, of the ever-increasing variety and intensity of environmentally related activities throughout the United Nations system, as well as in the larger international context in which the United Nations system operates,

1. *Recognizes* that more effective arrangements must be provided to ensure the effective and comprehensive co-ordination and direction of environmental activities in the United Nations system to enable it to meet the new and expanding requirements placed upon it by the ever-increasing urgency and complexity of international and related environmental challenges facing the international community;

2. *Recommends* that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development give priority consideration to ways and means of bringing about more effective arrangements for comprehensive co-ordination and direction of environmental activities in the United Nations system, at inter-agency level, as well as at intergovernmental level, bearing in mind the experience gained from the institutional arrangements contained in resolution 2997 (XXVII), taking into account, as appropriate, any other relevant considerations regarding United Nations system-wide or related international co-ordination.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/19. *Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/2 and 14/4 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to continue to report to the Council on an annual basis,

Noting the increasing importance of co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system on matters relating to the environment,

Having considered the 1989 and 1990 reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council regarding United Nations system-wide co-ordination in the field of the environment,[a]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for its 1989 and 1990 reports;

2. *Welcomes* the support of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for national efforts to integrate environmental considerations into overall and sectoral development policies and for the inter-agency steering committee on integration of environmental considerations into development planning;

3. *Also welcomes* the fact that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination is encouraging its member bodies to undertake activities to analyse issues of a cross-cutting nature in the course of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;[b]

4. *Supports* the views expressed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination regarding the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference should give greater attention to the issue of the cumulative interaction between poverty, health and population, on the one hand, and environmental degradation, on the other;[b]

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[a] UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1 (English and French only) and UNEP/GC.16/12 and Corr.1.

[b] UNEP/GC.16/12 and Corr.1, para. 31.

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5. *Further welcomes* the attention paid by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the issues of climate change, biological diversity, conservation and development of forests, as well as strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/20. *Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227*

The Governing Council

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227,[30] which concerns the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development;

2. *Transmits* the progress report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, and to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/21. *Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Executive Director to continue and increase co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), *inter alia*, in the four areas identified by the seventh joint meeting of the Executive Director of the Programme and the Bureau of its Governing Council with the Executive Director of the Centre and the Bureau of the Commission of Human Settlements,[31]

Recalling also its decision 15/18 of 25 May 1989 on co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting with satisfaction the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),[32]

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[30] A/46/138-E/1991/52, transmitted to the Governing Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/14).

[31] See UNEP/GC.13/6, para. 18.

[32] UNEP/GC.16/11.

Welcomes the increasing co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the four established areas and within the system-wide efforts of the United Nations and requests the Executive Director of the Programme to continue and intensify this co-operation.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/22. *Desertification*

A. *Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/169 and 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 35/73 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/147 of 17 December 1982 and 37/218 of 20 December 1982, 38/160 of 9 December 1983, 39/168 A of 17 December 1984, 40/198 A of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, 42/189 A of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 A of 19 December 1989,

Recalling also its decisions 9/22 A and B of 26 May 1981, section VII of its decision 10/14 of 31 May 1982, section VII of its decision 11/7 of 24 May 1983, and its decisions 12/10 of 28 May 1984, 14/15 A of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 A of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, [33]

Having also considered those parts of the 1989 and 1990 reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination dealing with the co-ordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, [34]

Reaffirming its conviction that the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification is an appropriate instrument to assist Governments in developing national programmes for arresting the process of desertification,

Also reaffirming its conviction that combating desertification at the national level:

(a) Should involve the traditional systems used by local people to promote popular participation in programmes of desertification control;

(b) Requires the establishment of effective institutional machinery for integrating desertification control programmes into overall national development plans and priorities,

Taking note of the report of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control on the work of its seventh session [35] and, in particular, its paragraph 22 (xii), which states that participants expressed a strong desire for the Consultative Group to contribute to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that it was suggested that, for this purpose, the eighth session of the Consultative Group, in 1991, would be of a special character and attract a large number of countries and organizations,

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[33] UNEP/GC.16/16.

[34] UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1 (English and French only), paras. 29-31, and UNEP/GC.16/12, paras. 47-50.

[35] DESCON 7-7.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to submit his report, on behalf of the Council, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

3. *Encourages* the ongoing efforts to compile a global assessment of desertification and to carry out mapping of thematic indicators of desertification at the global, regional and national levels;

4. *Takes note* of the action taken by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification to mobilize technical resources to assist States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference to develop and implement national programmes to combat desertification and to encourage reporting on activities of member organizations relevant to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

5. *Invites* donor Governments, intergovernmental bodies, including aid agencies and non-governmental organizations, to accord high priority in their bilateral and multilateral assistance activities to national programmes for combating desertification and for the rehabilitation of degraded land resources and to take into account the promotion of long-term ecological and social rehabilitation programmes in areas prone to desertification;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of further steps to improve international co-ordination between agencies within or outside the United Nations system involved in combating desertification;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to assist, within available financial resources, countries prone to desertification, at their request, in developing programmes for combating desertification within their development plans;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to contribute fully to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to report on his efforts to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference through, *inter alia*, the drafting of a consolidated report to be made available to the Committee at its fourth session and giving a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, since the Committee has decided to have a full discussion of the issue of desertification at that session;

9. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to convene the eighth session of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control as a session of a special character devoted to a review of the draft consolidated report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification before the report is made available to the Preparatory Committee and to invite all interested Governments, donor agencies and intergovernmental agencies to that session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. *Financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 36/191 of 17 December 1981, 37/220 of 20 December 1982, 42/189 C of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, *Recalling also* its decisions 13/30 A of 23 May 1985, 14/15 D of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 B of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Consultative Group for Desertification Control,[36]

1. *Recommends* that, pending action by the General Assembly on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the mandate of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control should be changed to concentrate on information exchange and co-ordination, reviewing the status of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and exchanging information on scientific research in this field, national programmes and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and advising on further action against desertification;

2. *Invites* the international community to pledge voluntary contributions to local, national and regional mechanisms for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

3. *Further invites* the international community to create the necessary economic and financial conditions that would enable countries prone to desertification to appropriate part of their resources to combat desertification;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to expedite the studies requested by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director, on the financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and other aspects of supporting it.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

C. *Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/170 of 19 December 1977, 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982, 38/164 of 19 December 1983, 39/168 B and 39/206 of 17 December 1984, 40/198 B of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of June 1986, 42/189 B of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 B of 19 December 1989,

Recalling also its decisions 13/30 B of 23 May 1985, 14/15 B of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 B of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and, in particular, the section on the implementation of the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region,[37]

1. *Commends* the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office on the steps it has taken, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, towards the implementation of the Plan of Action in twenty-two countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, in particular in the areas of natural resources management and sustainable development;

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[36] UNEP/GC.16/16 section III.

[37] *Ibid.*, section IV.

2. *Requests* the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to strengthen its actions at the national level to assist Governments in the region in developing national plans of action to combat desertification and in incorporating them into national plans for sustainable development, developing or strengthening relevant institutions, implementing replicable integrated projects and ensuring that not only the symptoms but also the causes of desertification are addressed, using available financial resources effectively by avoiding duplication of activities and co-ordinating the anti-desertification activities undertaken by the international community in the region;

3. *Urges* the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to contribute fully to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and, in particular, to the comprehensive report on desertification for the Conference;

4. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to continue support to the Office as a joint venture with the United Nations Development Programme;

5. *Invites* the Executive Director and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for continued assistance to the countries served by the Office in combating desertification.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

D. *External evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/23 A of 25 May 1989,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,[38]

2. *Underlines* the need for further refinement of the definition of the concept of desertification, taking into account recent findings about the influence of climate fluctuations and about the resilience of soils;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to forward the approved findings and recommendations of the evaluation report along with the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third substantive session, in August 1991;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to take into account, when revising the existing recommendations of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the approved findings and recommendations of the evaluation report and of the present decision and to include the revised recommendations in the Council's report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the status of desertification and implementation of the Plan of Action.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[38] UNEP/GC.16/16/Add.1.

E. *Implementation of the General Assembly resolution 44/172 A*

The Governing Council

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to expedite the comprehensive implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in co-operation with the Executive Director, to prepare, *inter alia*, a report containing financial and technical expert studies on ways and means to combat effectively desertification, and a general evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, together with contributions from the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, for presentation to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session, and giving a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, since the Committee has decided to have a full discussion of the issue of desertification at that time;

2. *Further requests* the Executive Director to undertake, the appropriate measures, within available resources, to strengthen the Desertification Programme Activity Centre to enable it to discharge effectively and efficiently its responsibilities.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/23. *Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1992-1993 and supplementary programme for the biennium 1990-1991*

The Governing Council

I. PROGRAMME BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

1. *Commends* the organizations of the United Nations system for their contributions to the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 [30] and calls upon them to co-operate fully with the Executive Director in the implementation of this programme;

2. *Approves* the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as set out in the report of the Executive Director [30] with the following amendments, the final apportionments by subprogramme and programme element being annexed to the present decision:

(a) Subprogramme 9 (Peace, security and the environment) is deleted and activities 1 and 4 transferred to subprogramme 2 (Water). Activities 2 and 3 of subprogramme 9 should not be implemented;

(b) Under subprogramme 5 (Lithosphere), the allocation for activity 1 is reduced to $100,000 (C) and $50,000 (S);

(c) Under subprogramme 12 (Environmental awareness) activity 7 of programme element 12.1 (Environmental education and training) is deleted;

(d) Under subprogramme 3 (Terrestrial ecosystems) the allocation for programme element 3.2 (Arid lands and desertification) is increased by $600,000 (C) and $230,000 (S);

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[30] UNEP/GC.16/15.

(e) Under subprogramme 4 (Oceans), the allocation for programme element 4.1 (Regional marine environments, including combating degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources) is increased by $350,000 (C) and $130,000 (S);

(f) Under subprogramme 11 (Environmental management measures), the allocation for programme element 11.1 (Environmental aspects of development planning and co-operation) is increased by $510,000 (C) and $190,000 (S);

(g) Subprogrammes 10 (Environmental assessment), 11 (Environmental management measures), 12 (Environmental awareness) and 13 (Technical and regional co-operation) become, respectively, subprogrammes 9, 10, 11 and 12;

II. SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Recalling section VI, paragraph 3, of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989, by which it approved an appropriation of $35 million as a supplementary appropriation for Fund programme activities as presented in the annex to that decision,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director [40] on the status of implementation of the supplementary programme approved by the Council in its decision 15/1;

2. *Approves* the adjustments to the supplementary programme proposed by the Executive Director in his report [41] with the following amendments:

(a) The title of activity 1 becomes "Studies on the implications of climate changes and rising sea-level in coastal areas as specified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change";

(b) Under activity 1, the phrase "including the special needs of small island countries" is added after the words "climate change" at the end of the last subparagraph;

3. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to implement the adjusted programme during the remaining part of 1991 as and when resources become available, giving priority to:

(a) Preparation of a draft convention on biological diversity;

(b) Studies on the implications of climate changes and sea-level rise in coastal areas as specified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(c) Activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(d) Support to the participation of developing countries in technical and intergovernmental meetings convened by the United Nations Environment Programme.

8th meeting
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[40] UNEP/GC.16/15/Add.1 and Corr.1.

[41] *Ibid.*, annex II.

Annex

PROGRAMME BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993: APPORTIONMENTS BY SUBPROGRAMME AND PROGRAMME ELEMENT

	Subprogramme/programme element	Programme amount	Percentage	Additional programme amount	Total amount (Thousand of United States dollars)	Percentage
1.	ATMOSPHERE	7 000	4.7	2 000	9 000	5.0
2.	WATER	8 840	5.9	2 700	11 540	6.4
3.	TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS	20 550	13.7	4 180	24 730	13.7
3.1	Soils, agricultural lands and agrochemicals	2 500	1.7	500	3 000	1.7
3.2	Arid lands and desertification	8 900	5.9	1 930	10 830	6.0
3.3	Forests and other ecosystems	3 150	2.1	850	4 000	2.2
3.4	Biological diversity	5 200	3.5	700	5 900	3.3
3.5	Microbial resources and related biotechnologies	800	0.5	200	1 000	0.6
4.	OCEANS	11 950	8.0	2 530	14 480	8.0
5.	LITHOSPHERE	500	0.3	150	650	0.4
6.	HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT	3 350	2.2	650	4 000	2.2
6.1	Environmental aspects of human settlements planning and management	2 100	1.4	400	2 500	1.4
6.2	Community preparedness for natural and man-made environmental disasters	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
7.	HUMAN HEALTH AND WELFARE	2 500	1.7	500	3 000	1.7
7.1	Hazards of pollution	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
7.2	Environmental aspects of human health	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
8.	ENERGY, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION	10 750	7.2	2 150	12 900	7.2
8.1	Energy and environment	1 700	1.1	300	2 000	1.1
8.2	Industry and environment	6 600	4.4	1 300	7 900	4.4
8.3	Transportation and environment	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
8.4	Tourism and environment	800	0.5	200	1 000	0.6
8.5	Working environment	400	0.3	100	500	0.3
9.	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	28 050	18.7	5 500	33 550	18.6
9.1	Earthwatch co-ordination	750	0.5	250	1 000	0.6
9.2	INFOTERRA	3 300	2.2	700	4 000	2.2
9.3	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals	8 300	5.5	1 700	10 000	5.6
9.4	Global Resources Information Database (GRID)	5 800	3.9	1 150	6 950	3.9
9.5	Global Environmental Monitoring Systems (GEMS)	7 900	5.3	1 700	9 600	5.3
9.6	State of the environment	2 000	1.3	-	2 000	1.1
10.	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES	17 460	11.6	2 940	20 400	11.3
10.1	Environmental aspects of development planning and co-operation	4 660	3.1	1 040	5 700	3.2
10.2	Environmental law and institutions	12 800	8.5	1 900	14 700	8.2
11.	ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS	19 500	13.0	2 900	22 400	12.4
11.1	Environmental education and training	7 800	5.2	1 000	8 800	4.9
11.2	Public information	11 700	7.8	1 900	13 600	7.6
12.	TECHNICAL AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION	19 550	13.0	3 800	23 350	13.0
	TOTAL	150 000	100.0	30 000	180 000	100.0

16/24. *Modification by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme*

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirtieth session as contained in the Committee's report on the work of that session, [42]

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990, particularly on the recommendation to delete subprogramme 9, on peace, security and the environment, from programme 16 of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, [43]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which states the main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also Governing Council decision 14/13 of 19 June 1987 and General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, by which the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond was adopted, and calling attention to chapter III, section D, of the Perspective, on security and environment, paragraph 86 of which defines the role of the United Nations Environment Programme on issues of disarmament and security,

Recommends to the General Assembly that it:

(a) Maintain the high priority assigned by the Council to the preparation of multidisciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources;

(b) Keep the title of subprogramme 13 as "Technical and regional co-operation";

(c) Maintain the text of paragraph 16.22 (a) (iv) in the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

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16/25. *Strengthening of three main secretariat units through the establishment of programme activity centres*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on strengthening three main units within the Office of the Environment Programme by establishment of programme activity centres, [44]

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[42] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No.16* (A/45/16).

[43] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No.6* (A/45/6).

[44] UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.1 and Corr.1 (English only).

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Recalling its decision 13/1, section II, part 2, paragraph 1, of 23 May 1985, by which it welcomed the initiative of the Executive Director in establishing a two-year pilot phase of the Global Resource Information Database,

Recalling its decision SS.II/4 B, paragraph 4, of 3 August 1990, in which it requested the Executive Director to strengthen the activities of the Industry and Environment Office related to the development of clean technologies in the field of hazardous wastes,

Noting with satisfaction that the Industry and Environment Office has, for a number of years, played an important role to promote environmentally sound industrial development, particularly through technology and information exchange, thus contributing to the implementation of decisions 15/37, on promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology, and 15/39, on industrial accidents, of 25 May 1989,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of decision 10/21 of 31 May 1982, in which the Council endorsed the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, and of subsequent decisions in the field of environmental law,

Recognizing that, in view of rapidly changing perceptions and emerging environmental needs, the effective implementation of the Global Resource Information Database, industry and law subprogrammes calls for a more autonomous, sharply focused and flexible approach,

1. *Decides* to give the Global Resource Information Database, the Industry and Environment Office and the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit a greater degree of autonomy in fulfilling their functions by establishing them as programme activity centres within the Office of the Environment Programme with the priorities and long-term goals set out in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to accelerate the development of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre and its network to help promote a global exchange of environmentally sound technologies;

3. *Calls upon* Governments and international organizations concerned to co-operate and support the development and application of international environmental law, assistance to developing countries through the provision of technical assistance to develop national environmental legislation, institutional building, and support of education and information programmes regarding environmental law;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations organizations and bodies and intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations active in the field of environmental law to co-operate fully with the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of its programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the progress of work under the new programme activity centres to the Council at its seventeenth regular session.

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Annex

PRIORITIES AND LONG-TERM GOALS OF THE GLOBAL RESOURCE INFORMATION DATABASE (GRID), INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMME ACTIVITY CENTRES

A. *Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Programme Activity Centre*

1. *Environmental management support*

(a) *Priority.* Producing packages of options that are feasible for use by policy makers in taking their decisions in respect of resource use and sustainable management of the environment within the context of development plans; providing an international forum for data collectors and information users to match data to needs;

(b) *Long-term goal.* A fully integrated and functioning United Nations - based core GRID system of co-operating agency and national centres, openly exchanging environmental data and information and providing the necessary information management support to bridge the gap between the generation and the use of environmental data.

2. *Environmental data management*

(a) *Priority.* Acquisition, verification and dissemination of geo-referenced environmental datasets, as well as the development of methodologies for handling global and regional data;

(b) *Long-term goal.* All major existing global and regional environmental databases to be more effectively available through the Global Resource Information Database network in appropriate forms to a wide range of users, from students to scientists to politicians.

3. *Agency support*

(a) *Priority.* Providing access to geographic information systems and expertise for supporting environmental assessments and practical environmental problem-solving at all levels;

(b) *Long-term goal.* All United Nations specialized agencies and most major intergovernmental organizations having access to GRID data and technology for the description, understanding and solution of environment-related problems.

4. *Technology transfer*

(a) *Priority.* Formal geographic information system and remote-sensing training programmes in on-the-job case study applications and in conjunction with technical assistance programmes to strengthen national capabilities of developing countries in particular;

(b) *Long-term goal.* Providing access to GRID data technology to all countries in the world and providing most with functioning GRID-compatible monitoring and assessment centres for national environmental assessment and management.

B. *Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre*

1. *Promotion of the environmentally sound management of selected industrial sectors:*

(a) *Priority.* To maintain a consultative process with industry and prepare and disseminate technical guidelines in a number of industrial sectors, including tourism, transportation and the working environment;

(b) *Long-term goal.* To review the environmental implications of all industry sectors and the impact of improved technologies on the enhancement of the state of the environment, particularly with respect to air and water pollution.

2. *Promotion of the cleaner production network*

(a) *Priority.* To establish and operate a network of industries and organizations dedicated to "cleaner production" through industrial sectoral working groups, a newsletter and a computerized exchange system;

(b) *Long-term goal.* To strengthen national capabilities for managing industrial development to avoid adverse environmental impacts.

3. *Prevention of industrial accidents*

(a) *Priority.* Development of the awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level (APELL) programme to prevent industrial accidents and reduce their impact on the environment;

(b) *Long-term goal.* Improved emergency response and prevention of industrial accidents.

4. *Technical support to developing countries*

(a) *Priority.* Operation of a query-response service, establishment of database on industry and environment issues, training workshops on environmentally sound technologies (low-waste and no waste) and on hazardous wastes management;

(b) *Long-term goal.* To strengthen national policies and capabilities for managing industrial development in an environmentally sound way.

C. *Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre*

1. *Promotion and implementation of global legal environmental instruments*

(a) *Priority.* To assist countries with the development, adoption and implementation of international legal instruments, including conventions and protocols, as well as principles and guidelines, with regard to the control or prevention of specific environmental problems;

(b) *Long-term goal.* A coherent body of international law in the environmental field.

2. *Formulation and implementation of national environmental legislation and establishment or support of appropriate institutions*

(a) *Priority.* To assist developing countries, upon request, through training, the provision of technical assistance for attending meetings, enacting national environmental legislation and setting up environmental machineries. This includes assessment of problems preventing developing countries from becoming parties to or implementing environmental legislation;

(b) *Long-term goal.* National environmental laws adopted and institutions established in developing countries.

3. *Information exchange*

(a) *Priority.* To collect and disseminate information on national environmental legislation and maintain a register of international Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment; to strengthen and co-ordinate the use of existing information sources and databases;

(b) *Long-term goal.* An operational comprehensive database on national and international environmental law.

16/26. *Oceans and coastal areas*

A. *Marine pollution from land-based sources*

The Governing Council,

Taking note of paragraphs 4 and 6 of decision 1/20 of 31 August 1990 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, [45] by which the Committee invited the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to consider making an evaluation of proposals for the further development of scientific, technical and financial co-operation for the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and to consider undertaking an evaluation of the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution, [46]

Taking note also of paragraph 5 of Preparatory Committee decision 2/18 by which the Committee notes with appreciation that the United Nations Environment Programme is preparing a proposal on strategy options and actions to reduce the effects of land-based sources of pollution, including, *inter alia*, sewage-related discharges and other activities threatening marine and coastal environment,

Taking note further of the outcome of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution, held in Halifax, Canada, from 6 to 10 May 1991,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [47] for the protection of the marine environment,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue the preparation of elements for draft strategy options and actions to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, in close co-operation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, other United Nations organizations and taking fully into account the experience gained by the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and by other regional co-operative programmes on efforts to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas as well as the outcome of the Halifax meeting;

2. *Decides* to invite the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session to give policy guidance to a meeting of Government-designated experts to be convened to formulate a draft strategy, including a targeted and costed programme of action for reduction of the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas;

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[45] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No.46* (A/45/46), annex I.

[46] See *Environmental Law Guidelines and Principles No.7* (United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1985).

[47] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84. v.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

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3. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to convene, subject to the availability of resources, such a meeting and to initiate preparations without delay;

4. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to complete a targeted and costed action programme for the Mediterranean as an input to the strategy and as an example for the preparation of an international study, in view of the comprehensive data which already exist for that area and the very limited time available;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the meeting of Government-designated experts, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session;

6. *Endorses* the co-sponsorship of the intergovernmental panel on global investigation of pollution in the marine environment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.

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B. *Strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas*

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed the note of the Executive Director transmitting the draft highlights of a report on strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas, commissioned in a joint effort by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[48]

1. *Welcomes* the continuing co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on the preparation of strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas;

2. *Approves* the completion of the strategy document by the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, as an important input to the planning of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and other parts of the United Nations system;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to arrange for the completed document to be submitted to the Governing Council at its next regular session and the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session, through the appropriate channel.

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[48] UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.5.

C. *Expansion to the Central American Pacific of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific*

The Governing Council,

Aware that the countries of the South-East Pacific - Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru - have since 1981 been implementing the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and co-ordinated by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific,

Also aware that the Action Plan has been a beneficial experience for the region that should be broadened and shared in other areas with similar environmental conditions,

Having in mind that one Central American Government and other Central American forums have expressed an interest in having the Action Plan for the South-East Pacific expanded and that this interest is shared by the countries participating in the Action Plan,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to initiate action to facilitate the expansion to the Central American Pacific of the Action Plan for the South-East Pacific;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for undertaking the necessary action to facilitate the expansion of the Action Plan.

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16/27. *Sea-level rise*

A. *Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas*

The Governing Council

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas. [a]

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B. *Sea-level rise vulnerability assessments*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989 on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying areas, by paragraph 3 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and, through them, the

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[a] A/46/156 - E/1991/54, transmitted to the Governing Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/18).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, *inter alia*, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates, for improved management of coastal zones,

Recalling Governing Council decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 on global climate change, in which the Council recommended the institution of programmes and measures of assistance that would make it possible for developing countries to better manage the impacts of global climate change,

Acknowledging that the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, adopted in August 1990, predicts that sea-level may rise between three to ten centimetres a decade under the business-as-usual emissions scenario and that, even if greenhouse gas emissions were reduced, there would still be a continuing need to address sea-level rise,

Noting that the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also recommended options for adapting to the coastal impacts of global climate change, including identification of areas potentially at risk from sea-level rise and development of comprehensive management plans to reduce future vulnerability of populations, coastal developments and ecosystems as part of coastal zone management,

Recalling the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference of November 1990 [50] and, in particular, paragraph 8 thereof,

Conscious of decisions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its fifth plenary session, in March 1991, to assess vulnerability to sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change, identify adaptive responses, bearing in mind cost-benefit analysis in the short and long run, and identify implementation requirements in conjunction with the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the intention of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to complete by April 1992 an update of its First Assessment Report, including the results of the sea-level rise vulnerability assessment project, and to present it to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in June 1992,

Noting the leading role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in implementing the Global Ocean Observing System,

1. *Urges* Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, particularly the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and international organizations, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support fully and participate in the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to assess the vulnerability to sea-level rise of developing countries, particularly small island countries, low-lying coastal states and other small islands;

2. *Requests* that the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme should facilitate the building by developing countries of their own capability to assess their vulnerability to sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change, identify appropriate response strategies, and develop integrated coastal management plans in association with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and in accordance with the recommendations made at the Panel's fifth plenary session;

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[50] A/45/696/Add.1, annex III.

3. *Recommends* that Governments, taking note of the need to address the issue of vulnerability to sea-level rise, increase their support of these activities.

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16/28. *Cholera and microbial pollution of the coastal waters of the South-East pacific*

The Governing Council,

Considering that in some coastal areas of the South-East Pacific, environmental conditions have become conducive to the presence, propagation and spread of pollution-related microbial diseases,

Being aware that, as a consequence of these conditions, the South-East Pacific region has recently been stricken by cholera and, despite the efforts deployed by the Governments of the region, cholera is taking on the characteristics of an endemic disease,

Considering that it is necessary to take effective measures against cholera and microbial pollution to prevent their propagation and spread to other areas and so protect human life, fisheries and other legitimate uses of the sea,

Recognizing the support that the United Nations Environment Programme has given and could continue to give to the efforts of the Governments of the region to control microbial pollution and cholera,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director in co-ordination with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, to consider the cholera control measures taken by the South-East Pacific countries as one of the activities that must be supported and strengthened and that call for prompt and decisive action on the part of the United Nations Environment Programme in view of the direct relationship between cholera, coastal pollution and causes thereof;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consider what support the United Nations Environment Programme could offer, within available resources, to the South-East Pacific region for sanitary control action in coastal areas through established marine pollution programmes, thus reinforcing the national cholera control efforts, and to include such support among those measures that must be adopted as a matter of urgency.

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16/29. *Assistance to Bangladesh on environmental matters in the wake of the devastating cyclone*

The Governing Council,

Deeply concerned at the colossal loss of human life and unprecedented degradation of the environment caused by the cyclone and tidal waves that struck Bangladesh on 29 April 1991,

Considering that Bangladesh is one of the least developed countries, and that its situation has been worsened by the frequent recurrence of natural disasters having devastating consequences,

Aware that the environment of the coastal areas of Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to natural calamity resulting in widespread human and material loss, *Recognizing* that natural disasters constitute a developmental and environmental problem of great magnitude, the solution of which calls for substantial resources, requiring national efforts to be supplemented by international financial and technical assistance,

Recognizing also the magnitude of the relief and rehabilitation efforts that the Government of Bangladesh has to undertake to alleviate the suffering of disaster victims and to restore the environment,

Noting the appeal to the international community by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to come forward in aid of those affected by the disastrous cyclone,

Noting also General Assembly resolution 45/263 of 13 May 1991 on assistance to Bangladesh in the wake of the devastating cyclone,

1. *Expresses its solidarity* with the Government and people of Bangladesh during the tragic aftermath of the disaster;

2. *Urges* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide and facilitate obtaining all possible assistance in short- and long-term measures, within available resources, for the protection of the environment in Bangladesh, including an urgent case-study by the United Nations Environment Programme on the coastal areas of Bangladesh within the context of ongoing activities of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change/Interim Steering Committee on Vulnerability Assessment and Coastal Zone Management and of the United Nations Environment Programme in this field.

3. *Appeals* to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend all possible assistance to Bangladesh to mitigate the suffering of the victims and to prevent further consequences of the environmental disaster.

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16/30. *Hazardous waste*

A. *Environmentally sound management of hazardous waste*

The Governing Council,

Noting with appreciation the shift in environmental policy in favour of the principle of precautionary action as defined in the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference[51] and the recommendations from the international community for implementing that policy through clean production methods,

Recalling its decision SS.II/4 B of 3 August 1990 on a comprehensive approach to hazardous waste, by paragraph 1 of which it called upon Governments and international forums to implement the precautionary approach through clean production methods in order to achieve the reduction and minimization of hazardous wastes and substances,

Aware of the adoption in January 1991 of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management within Africa of Hazardous Wastes, which contains provisions regarding the precautionary principle and clean production approach to prevent and eliminate polluting emissions and discharges,

Noting section I, paragraph 3, of decision 1/22 of 31 August 1990 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee invited the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the

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[51] A/45/696/Add.1, annex III.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant organizations, to consider preparing elements for an international strategy for environmentally sound management of hazardous waste,[52]

Also noting resolution 8 of 22 March 1989 adopted by the Basel Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, by which the Conference called upon the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a technical working group to prepare draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, through the Interim Secretariat for the Basel Convention and in co-operation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Economic Community and other relevant organizations, draft elements of an international strategy and an action programme, including technical guidelines, for environmentally sound management of hazardous waste;

2. *Further requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to convene, in co-operation with other organizations as appropriate, an *ad hoc* meeting of Government-designated experts to consider the draft elements and a possible international strategy and action programme;

3. *Emphasizes* that the international strategy and the action programme:

(a) May consider the pursuit of waste minimization as part of a broad cleaner production approach focusing on both products and processes from "the cradle to the grave", taking into account the experience gained by the cleaner production programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and the clean production guidelines for national action of the Bamako Convention;

(b) Should recognize the important role that has to be played by industry not only in developing new clean technologies but also in introducing good operating practices for the minimization of waste;

(c) Should be made available to Governments in order to serve as guidance for the elaboration of national strategies for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

4. *Urges* Governments that have not yet acceded to or ratified the Basel Convention to do so as soon as possible;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the outcome of the meeting of Government-designated experts to the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its first meeting and to the contracting parties to the Bamako Convention at their first meeting;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director, through the appropriate channels, to report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at its third session, on progress made and, at its fourth session, on the outcome of the meeting of Government-designated experts;

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[52] *See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No.46* (A/45/46), annex I.

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to support the efforts of African Governments with regard to the entry into force and implementation of the Bamako Convention.

B. *Comprehensive approach to hazardous waste: recommendations for the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.II/4 B*

The Governing Council,

Noting the shift in environmental policy, particularly over the past two years, in favour of the preventive approach towards pollution control and the recommendations from the international community for its implementation by clean production methods,

Recalling its decision SS.II/4 B of 3 August 1990 on comprehensive approach to hazardous waste, by which it, *inter alia*, appealed to Governments and international forums to implement the precautionary approach through clean production methods in order to achieve the reduction and elimination of hazardous wastes and substances,

Welcoming the adoption of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal of 22 March 1989, article 4, paragraphs 2 (a) and (e) of which set forth the obligation to ensure that the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes is reduced to a minimum and not to allow the export of hazardous wastes to States that have prohibited all imports,

Recalling also the Lomé IV Convention between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States banning the export of all hazardous wastes to the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States,

Welcoming the adoption, on 30 January 1991, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity, of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa which, apart from banning the import of waste to Africa, contains legally binding provisions regarding the precautionary approach and the clean production approach to prevent and eliminate polluting emissions and discharges,

Aware that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has begun work on clean production pursuant to a concept for phasing out especially harmful substances and products,

Also aware of the relevant paragraphs of the Bergen Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Development in the ECE Region, the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development, the Asian and Pacific input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Noordwijk Declaration and the results of the regional conference for Africa organized in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989,

Recalling resolution L.D.C.40 (13) adopted in 1990 by the contracting parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, which included a call for the precautionary approach encouraging the adoption of the clean production methods that reduce the generation of hazardous substances,

Further recognizing the importance of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the sessions of its Preparatory Committee, which will address, among other things, pollution problems and the adequacy of current international regulatory régimes and measures,

1. *Appeals* to Governments and appropriate international forums, taking economic costs into consideration, to consider alternative cleaner production methods, including raw material selection, product substitution

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and clean production technologies and processes as a means of implementing a precautionary approach in order to promote production systems that minimize or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes and optimize use of raw materials, water and energy through, for example, recycling;

2. *Appeals* to Governments and international and intergovernmental organizations that have not yet done so to develop national and regional environmental policies based on the preventive approach implemented through, *inter alia*, the application at an accelerated rate of cleaner production methods, taking into account the work of the Industry and Environment Office of the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the work within the framework of relevant international agreements in order to achieve minimization of wastes;

3. *Further appeals* to Governments and international and intergovernmental organizations to develop national and regional strategies based, *inter alia*, on:

(a) Cleaner production programmes, including environmental audits to be carried out at all stages of production, based on, *inter alia*, the ongoing work of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre and identifying appropriate cleaner production substitutes;

(b) Accelerated work on reducing the use and emission of hazardous substances that are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative with the ultimate aim of phasing out those uses that cannot adequately be controlled and obtaining agreed regional timetables for phasing them out;

(c) Integrated pollution prevention and control, including more comprehensive approaches to environmental management and integration of risk-reduction measures;

4. *Appeals* to the international community to support Governments that so request in developing and implementing the policies and strategies referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present decision;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to further develop and strengthen the International Cleaner Production Information Clearing-house, including support for the creation of national and regional focal points.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/31. *List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 12/11 of 28 May 1984 and 14/32 of 18 June 1987,

Having considered the updated report of the Executive Director on the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance,[53]

1. *Takes note* of the updated report of the Executive Director on the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To refer the report to Governments, relevant intergovernmental and international organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations for further study and action, as appropriate;

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[53] UNEP/GC.16/20.

(b) To obtain their comments on the report and, in particular, on the recommendations contained therein;

(c) To review the use made of the list and to submit the results to the Council in 1993;

(d) To submit to the Council in 1993 proposals for a possible update of the list in the light of the outcome of the review referred to in subparagraph (c) above.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/32. *Industrial accidents*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/39 of 25 May 1989, by paragraph 3 of which it requested the Executive Director to set up a network of organizations and experts to facilitate the exchange of information and prevention of industrial accidents that might impact negatively on the environment and to provide assistance in the case of emergencies, and to report thereon to the Council at its sixteenth regular session,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on industrial accidents,[54]

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in developing the APELL (awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level) process and in initiating concrete local and national activities for enhancing public awareness and preparedness;

2. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the senior-level expert advisory group at its second meeting, held in Paris from 3 to 5 December 1990;[55]

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, intergovernmental and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and world industry to continue to support the widespread implementation of the APELL process to all industrial areas through generous financial contributions or technical assistance;

4. *Takes note* of the progress made in identifying organizations and experts capable of providing information and assistance in the case of emergencies;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to develop the APELL process and promote its implementation by providing expertise, advice and technical assistance where action has been initiated, by the preparation of the necessary publications and by supporting human resources development in this field;

(b) To continue developing the network for the exchange of information and technology for the prevention of industrial accidents and the provision of assistance in the case of emergencies, with particular emphasis on the prevention aspect.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[54] UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only), paras. 1-14.

[55] *Ibid.*, para. 14.

16/33. *Transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/37 of 25 May 1989 on promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology and, in particular, its paragraph 1,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on transfer of environmentally sound technology,[56]

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the gathering, processing and world-wide dissemination of information on cleaner production by the International Cleaner Production Information Clearing-house of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme and the inputs from the working groups in the cleaner production programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. *Calls upon* Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry associations and academics to develop and initiate cleaner production activities and to participate in their implementation;

3. *Calls upon* the Executive Director:

(a) To support, within the cleaner production programme, the initiation and development of cleaner production activities in different regions;

(b) To develop educational and training activities to help institutions and Governments in developing cleaner production programmes;

(c) To promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/34. *International Environmental Technology Centre*

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the increasingly serious environmental problems, including air and water pollution, in many mega-cities in developing countries,

Recognizing also the scarcity of freshwater in many parts of developing countries,

Convinced that transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries is essential in their endeavours to cope with these problems,

Bearing in mind the urgent need to identify concrete ways and means of such transfer,

Noting with appreciation the valuable activities which the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre has been performing in the field of, *inter alia*, cleaner production and recognizing that it should play a major role in the co-ordination undertaken by the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in the areas related to the activities for which the office is responsible,

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[56] UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only), paras. 15-26.

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress towards the establishment of an International Environmental Technology Centre;

2. *Calls upon* the Executive Director:

(a) To continue his efforts to work out the details of the Centre and to establish it, provided that the Centre would be an integral part of the United Nations Environment Programme and thereby under its supervision, and that satisfactory assurances are secured concerning the international origin of the technologies and expertise available, with a view to guaranteeing its full international status, assurances which should be reflected in the organizational structure, personnel and programmes of the Centre, through, *inter alia*, the establishment of an international advisory board composed of members with various backgrounds, including the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre;

(b) To ensure that the activities of the Centre are fully co-ordinated with and complement activities of relevant units of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular. the cleaner production and other relevant activities of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre and activities taking place under the auspices of the Global Environment Monitoring System, or other organizations within the United Nations system, and that the Centre is dedicated to transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition by means of providing training and consulting services, carrying out research, and accumulating and disseminating related information with special focus on environmentally sustainable management of big cities and fresh-water lake/reservoir basins;

3. *Also calls upon* the Executive Director to report to Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the outcome of the consultations with the Government of Japan before proceeding to the establishment of the Centre;

4. *Decides* that, in the event that the Centre is established initially in the biennium 1992-1993, financial support from the Environment Fund to the Centre for the biennium would be limited to the amount mentioned under activity 6, programme element 12.1, subprogramme 12 (Technical and regional co-operation) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 [57] on a trial basis;

5. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations organizations and bodies, other international and intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to co-operate and support the development and activities of the Centre in the event that the Centre is established;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to explore, within the context of the present decision, the possibility of establishing centres of this type in equal numbers in developed and developing countries and to report thereon to the Council at its seventeenth session;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session, for its consideration in the context of the preparatory process for the Conference.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[57] UNEP/GC.16/15, as amended by the Council by paragraph 2 of its decision 16/23 of 31 May 1991.

16/35. *Toxic chemicals*

The Governing Council,

I

Recalling its decision 85 (V) of 25 May 1977, by paragraph 2 of which it urged Governments to take steps to ensure that potentially harmful chemicals, in whatever form or commodity, which are unacceptable for domestic purposes in the exporting country, are not permitted to be exported without the knowledge and consent of appropriate authorities in the importing country,

Also recalling its decision 14/27 of 17 June 1987, by which the Council adopted the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, which constitute an important step towards the implementation of decision 85 (V),

Further recalling its decision 15/30 of 25 May 1989, by which the Council adopted the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, which incorporate the prior informed consent procedure in order fully to implement decision 85 (V), and requested the Executive Director to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts that developed the prior informed consent procedure and other modalities to supplement the 1987 London Guidelines,

Noting that the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twenty-fifth session, in November 1989, adopted the amendments to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, by which the prior informed consent procedure was incorporated in the Code in a manner fully compatible with that of the amended London Guidelines, both procedurally and with respect to health and environmental protection,

Noting with satisfaction that the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through a joint programme, including the work of their Joint Group of Experts on Prior Informed Consent, have been sharing the operational procedure,

1. *Urges* Governments that have not yet done so to designate national authorities for the implementation of the amended London Guidelines, in particular the prior informed consent procedure;

2. *Recommends* that the United Nations Environment Programme continue developing model national legislation to assist in the implementation of the amended London Guidelines, in close consultation with Governments and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations;

3. *Recommends* that the United Nations Environment Programme strengthen consultations with the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the European Economic Community in order to enhance co-operation and harmonize activities relating to the implementation of the amended London Guidelines and the prior informed consent procedure;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to invite the various private sector parties involved in the international trade in chemicals:

(a) To enter into commitments aimed at achieving the objectives laid down in the amended London Guidelines;

(b) To prepare a code of ethics on the international trade in chemicals in consultation with the international organizations concerned;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to take further steps for technical assistance to be provided to developing countries for the implementation of the amended London Guidelines;

6. *Recommends* Governments to take all possible domestic measures to ensure that all concerned ministries and bodies in their countries are aware of the prior informed consent procedures;

7. *Urges* Governments to adopt, as appropriate, national legislation or to amend existing national legislation in order to incorporate necessary measures to implement the prior informed consent procedure and to prevent exports that contravene prior informed consent decisions by importing countries participating in the procedure;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to re-convene the *Ad Hoc* Working Group for further urgent action, including work on strengthening the legal basis of the amended London Guidelines, taking into consideration, *inter alia*, experience gained in the implementation of the Guidelines and the prior informed consent procedure;

II

Having taken note of paragraph 3 of decision 2/17 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee invited the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Labour Organisation, in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, to report ongoing work, carried out through appropriate governmental expert meetings, concerning possible proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, in co-operation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Economic Community and other relevant organizations, draft proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals;

2. *Further requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to convene in consultation with the executive heads of the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization, within the context of the collaboration under the International Programme on Chemical Safety, and in co-operation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Economic Community, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and other relevant international organizations, a technical meeting of government experts to consider the draft proposals and, in consultation with the executive heads of the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization and, through the appropriate channels, to submit to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session a report on the outcome of the meeting.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/36. *Regional activities within the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme related to changes in the global life-supporting system*

The Governing Council,

Concerned at the changes in the global life-supporting system as a result of human activity,

Considering that the understanding of the changes and their consequences is a necessary step towards mitigating or adapting to them, *Cognizant* that proper monitoring of the changes is an indispensable element of an environmentally sound strategy for sustainable development,

Considering that the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and the World Climate Programme play an essential role in improving the understanding of the causes and consequences of global changes, including global climate change,

Noting General Assembly resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989, by which the Assembly recommended that Governments continue and, wherever possible, increase their activities in support of the World Climate Programme and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and that the international scientific community support efforts by developing countries to participate in these scientific activities,

Noting further the final statement of the Scientific and Technical sessions of the Second World Climate Conference, which, *inter alia*, called for a special initiative that would create a network of regional interdisciplinary research centres, located primarily in developing countries, and focusing on all of the natural science, social science, and engineering disciplines required to fully support integrated studies of global change and its impacts and policy responses, [58]

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme to address regional problems of global importance through its Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START);

2. *Appeals* to all States to establish and support national committees for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme;

3. *States* that the START activities of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme in the developing regions deserve the support of the Governments from within and outside the region concerned;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide, within available resources, support to the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme regional research centres and networks, which should be planned and implemented in conjunction with the relevant World Climate Programme activities.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/37. *Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, by paragraph 5 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, assisted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to prepare a report, on the basis of the views of Member States and existing national and international legislation in the field, containing proposals and recommendations on, *inter alia*, international co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies,

Underlining the importance of strengthening the capacity of Earthwatch to make authoritative statements, to anticipate environmental degradation and to issue early warnings to the international community,

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[58] A/45/696/Add.1, annex II, section C, para. 11.

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Noting that the general objectives of Earthwatch as defined in the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, as adopted by the Governing Council by its decision SS.I/3 of 18 March 1988, are "to accumulate and improve reliable and comparable scientific and technical information about environmental issues and to develop and apply means of collecting, storing, retrieving and processing such information in a way that will make it readily available to decision makers and specialists" and "to provide comprehensive assessments of environmental issues on the basis of socio-economic data and data on the major components and processes of the global and regional environments, to monitor, in an appropriate way, the transition towards sustainable development", [59]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental emergencies [60] and requests that it be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, together with its supplement which summarizes the activities of the agencies of the United Nations system;

2. *Considers* that assessments are particularly needed in all those areas of concentration identified by the Governing Council in section IV of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 and enumerated by the General Assembly in resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 for consideration at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

3. *Further considers* that Earthwatch should also be able to accommodate emerging issues as and when need arises;

4. *Recommends* that, in keeping with its mandate, Earthwatch should identify global and regional environmental monitoring and assessment needs, co-ordinate and harmonize global, regional and national monitoring and assessment programmes to the extent required, prepare comprehensive assessment statements, inventories and analytical statements, give advanced warning of emerging environmental threats, advise on causal relationships of observed environmental changes, and suggest policy responses and management options where necessary;

5. *Further recommends* that Earthwatch should pay particular attention to the interface between environment and development;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen the environmental monitoring and assessment capacities of developing countries to enable them to participate actively and more fully in Earthwatch;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to prepare detailed proposals for ensuring adequate financial and institutional support to enable Earthwatch to carry out fully its mandated programmes, and to report on these matters to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session, on the basis of the decisions taken by the General Assembly on the Secretary-General's report.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/38. *Improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/24 of 17 June 1987 and 15/38 of 25 May 1989,

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[59] UNEP/GCSS.1/7/Add.1, paras. 332 and 343.

[60] UNEP/GC.16/17, annex.

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements,[a]

1. *Notes* that, with the support of the Government of Germany, the Office for Harmonization of Environmental Measurement has been established at Munich, Germany;

2. *Further notes* that, apart from the voluntary contributions from the Government of Germany, no other financial contributions have been forthcoming, and that without such contributions the project will have to be terminated;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue contacting Governments to seek support for the project;

4. *Further requests* the Office for Harmonization of Environmental Measurement to continue to conduct its activities in close consultation with the competent United Nations agencies;

5. *Appeals* to Governments and international organizations to assist the project to fulfil its objectives by, *inter alia*, providing financial resources and seconding staff;

6. *Calls upon* Governments and international organizations to participate actively in the implementation of the project.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/39. *Freshwater resources*

The Governing Council,

Concerned about the increasing threats to freshwater resources in many parts of the world,

Stressing the urgent need for decisive action, *inter alia*, to achieve integrated and efficient management of freshwater resources, in particular in arid and semi-arid areas, and to make available safe water and sanitation, particularly to people in poverty-stricken areas,

Emphasizing the important role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of freshwater resources,

Taking note of paragraphs 3 to 5 of decision 2/20 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee, *inter alia*, invited the International Conference on Water and the Environment, to be held in Dublin in January 1992, to consider an action framework on sustainable development and management of freshwater resources and invited Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other interested organizations to engage actively in the preparatory process leading to the Conference,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the contribution being made by the United Nations Environment Programme to the preparations for the Dublin Conference;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to give full support to the preparations for the Dublin Conference, including financial contributions within available resources.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[a] UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only), paras. 1-8.

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16/40. *Protection of the ozone layer*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.II/2 of 3 August 1990 on new developments in the protection of the ozone layer,

Noting the efforts being made with regard to the implementation of the decisions of the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, [62] held in London, from 27 to 29 June 1990, including the establishment of the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund,

Noting that the adjustments to the Montreal Protocol, [63] which have already come into force, and the Amendment to the Protocol [64] are interconnected,

Noting that, as of 22 May 1991, only $10,197,609, from a total of nine States, had been contributed to the Fund,

1. *Urges* States that have not already done so to ratify, accept or approve the Montreal Protocol;

2. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to ratify, accept or approve the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol adopted by the Second Meeting of the Parties so that the Amendment can enter into force on 1 January 1992;

3. *Urges* the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol that have not yet done so to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention and the Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol to enable the Ozone Secretariat to implement the decisions of the parties;

4. *Endorses* the efforts of the Executive Director in promoting the establishment of the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund and requests him to undertake appropriate actions expeditiously to develop and implement the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, as an executing agency of the Fund, for the Executive Committee of the Fund, and to report thereon to the Governing Council;

5. *Urges* the parties to the Montreal Protocol that have not yet done so to pay their contributions towards the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund as soon as possible, in line with decision II/8 of the Second Meeting of the Parties, so that the various activities under the Fund can be conducted in a timely manner.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/41. *Climate change*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 on global climate change and its decisions SS.II/3 A, B and C of 3 August 1990 on the Second World Climate Conference, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and on the negotiations for a framework convention on climate change, respectively,

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[62] UNEP/OzL.Pro.2/3, para. 40.

[63] *Ibid.*, annex I.

[64] *Ibid.*, annex II.

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Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990 on climate change and, in particular, its paragraphs 1, 7, 12 and 21,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Second World Climate Conference,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the Second World Climate Conference,[65] the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[66] and the framework convention on climate change,[67]

Noting the resolution 3.2.5/5 (Cg-XI) of 23 May 1991 of the Eleventh Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, on the World Climate Programme and its co-ordination, and, in particular, bearing in mind the work that has been done in these areas by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the establishment of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme, which supersedes the World Climate Impact Studies Programme, and the indication in that resolution that the Global Climate Observing System is an essential activity associated with the World Climate Programme,

Noting resolution XVI-10 of the Sixteenth Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, by which it was decided to undertake the development of a Global Ocean Observing System, and the associated statement and declaration on a Global Ocean Observing System containing a recommendation for adoption by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

I. *Protection of global climate*

Urges States, acting individually or in groups, as well as through the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations bodies or other institutions, to support actions aimed at the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humanity;

II. *Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change*

1. *Urges* States, acting individually or in groups, as well as through the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations bodies or other institutions, to support the negotiating process aimed at the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humanity;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director with due consideration of the immediacy of the process:

(a) To support fully the intergovernmental negotiating process through, *inter alia*, contributing to the cost of the negotiating process, including its funding, if necessary by examining the scope for savings in other Environment Fund activities or using a portion of the Environment Fund reserve;

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[65] UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3, paras. 1-14.

[66] *Ibid.*, paras. 15-27.

[67] *Ibid.*, paras. 28-31.

(b) To support the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee through the secondment of an appropriate staff member from the United Nations Environment Programme, and responding positively to further requests for secondment from within available resources;

(c) To make available to the secretariat of the Committee all relevant information and data collected by the Programme, including the results of its work on climate change impact assessments and response strategies and on the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change;

III. *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the World Meteorological Organization for co-sponsoring the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to Governments and organizations for their support of the Panel's activities;

3. *Commends* the Panel for completing its First Assessment Report in less than two years;

4. *Further urges* Governments to strengthen their active participation in the work carried out by the Panel, its working groups and task forces;

5. *Supports*, considering the need for further assessments of all aspects of climate change, the continuation of the Panel and reaffirms its terms of reference as contained in Council decision SS.II/3 B;

6. *Urges* Governments and organizations to continue and increase their cash contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To intensify co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Panel in the area of climate change impact assessments, including case-studies on the vulnerability to sea-level rise of small island countries and low-lying coastal areas and studies to assess response options and their cost implications;

(b) To support expert consultations on the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change in co-operation with other relevant international organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank;

8. *Welcomes* the Panel's recognition that its structure and the representation of developing countries on its bureau need to be reviewed and urges the Panel to give this task high priority;

9. *Requests* the Panel, through its Chairman, to report on the progress of its activities to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session;

IV. *World Climate Programme*

1. *Urges* all States to take appropriate steps to promote national climate activities and to support implementation of the World Climate Programme;

/...

2. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To assume responsibility for the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular, with the World Meteorological Organization, which should continue to provide the overall co-ordination in the implementation of the World Climate Programme;

(b) To join the World Meteorological Organization and other international agencies which, together with the United Nations Environment Programme, co-sponsored the Second World Climate Conference, in the future development of the World Climate Programme;

(c) To join the World Meteorological Organization, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Council of Scientific Unions and other relevant organizations in establishing a Co-ordinating Committee for the World Climate Programme;

(d) To intensify closer co-operation and better communication between the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme and related national, regional and international levels of climate activities, and to support the proposed intergovernmental meeting to discuss co-ordination and resources for the Programme;

(e) To support, within available resources, the creation of a Global Climate Observing System, including its component parts - World Weather Watch, Global Atmosphere Watch and the Global Ocean Observing System - and to assist in ensuring that its development and implementation, overseen by the scientific and technical committee of the Global Ocean Observing System, is pursued with urgency by scientists, Governments and international organizations;

(f) To report to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session on the progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To support research efforts including those by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to anticipate and respond to adverse impacts of climate change at the global and regional levels, bearing in mind the special interests of small island countries and the need for inclusion of cost-benefit analyses;

(b) To assist Governments, particularly those of developing countries and small island countries, in country-specific studies to estimate the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change and identifying the available technology and technology needs on a country-by-country basis;

(c) To strengthen, within available resources, public information programmes on the role of climate in development and on the additional risks posed by climate variability and change, within the framework of Earthwatch/Global Environmental Monitoring System;

(d) To enhance and expand the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme related to achieving a greater scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/42. *Preparation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 15/34 of 25 May 1989 and SS.II/5 of 3 August 1990 on an international legal instrument on biological diversity,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on progress in the preparation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity, [68]

Stressing that both the conservation of biological diversity and the rational use of biological resources shall be integral and inseparable elements of the convention,

Recognizing the desirability of having the convention ready for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting the decision of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Biological Diversity established pursuant to decision 15/34 to recommend that the matter of renaming the Group should be addressed to the Council at its sixteenth session, as the body with appropriate authority to make relevant decisions, [69]

1. *Decides* to rename the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Biological Diversity the "Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity";

2. *Affirms* that the change of name does not mean a new negotiating body nor affect the continuity of the process of elaborating the convention;

3. *Further affirms* that participation in meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall be in accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts at its second session; [70]

4. *Invites* the members of the Ecosystems Conservation Group to continue to provide technical assistance and legal support to the negotiations on a convention on biological diversity.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

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[68] UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3, paras. 32-39.

[69] *Ibid.*, para. 39.

[70] UNEP/Bio.Div/WG.2/2/5, annex.

16/43. *International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Noting with appreciation the services of the Governments and international governmental organizations that act as depositaries of various international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,[71]

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to transmit the updated report, on its behalf, together with the comments of the Governing Council thereon, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to make the report and the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment[72] available to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session;

4. *Also calls upon* the Executive Director, in furtherance of the objectives of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to co-operate fully in reviewing the effectiveness of existing international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment;

5. *Urges* those States that have not already done so to sign, ratify, accede to and implement relevant conventions in the field of the environment.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/44. *The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1990-1991 and proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Annual Reports of the Executive Director for 1989 and 1990[73], as well as his report on the Environment Fund covering the use of resources in 1990-1991 and the proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995,[74] together with his comments on the report of the

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[71] UNEP/GC.16/19.

[72] UNEP/GC.16/Inf.4.

[73] UNEP/GC.16/2 and 3.

[74] UNEP/GC.16/23 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2 (Spanish only) and Add.1.

Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited accounts of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1988-1989 ended 31 December 1989 and on the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon,

1. *Takes note* of the comments of the Executive Director on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited accounts of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1988-1989 ended 31 December 1989;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that have contributed or pledged to contribute to the Fund at a higher level in 1990, 1991 and beyond;

3. *Reconfirms* the target of $100 million for contributions to the Environment Fund by the year 1992 approved by the Council by paragraph 1 of section V of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989;

4. *Notes* the Executive Director's view that contributions of $250 million will be required by 1995 to allow the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its tasks;

5. *Affirms* in this regard the desirability of working towards a level substantially higher than the present level of contributions to the Environment Fund by 1995, fully commensurate with the demands placed upon the Programme as a result of the urgent and increasing environmental problems that the Programme must address;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to contribute or to increase their contributions on a voluntary basis to the Environment Fund accordingly;

7. *Notes with concern* that although the overall level of contributions to the Environment Fund has increased, the number of countries contributing to the Fund has decreased, and calls upon all Governments that are not contributing to make every effort to do so;

8. *Strongly appeals* again to all Governments to pay their contributions either before the end of the year preceding that to which their contributions relate or as near as possible to the beginning of the year to which they relate;

9. *Approves* an appropriation of $150 million for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1992-1993;

10. *Decides* to apportion the appropriation for Fund programme activities in that biennium as follows, the corresponding total apportionments for 1990-1991 being indicated for comparison:

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	Subprogramme/budget line	*1992-1993* (Thousands of United States dollars)	*Percentage*	*1990-1991* (Thousands of United States dollars)	*Percentage*
1.	Atmosphere	7 000	4.7	2 700	4.0
2.	Water	8 840	5.9	3 400	5.0
3.	Terrestrial ecosystems	20 550	13.7	11 900	17.5
4.	Oceans	11 950	8.0	7 000	10.3
5.	Lithosphere	500	0.3	600	0.9
6.	Human settlements and environment	3 350	2.2	1 300	1.9
7.	Human health and welfare	2 500	1.7	1 500	2.2
8.	Energy, industry and transportation	10 750	7.2	4 300	6.3
9.	Environmental assessment	28 050	18.7	14 800	21.8
10.	Environmental management measures	17 460	11.6	3 900	5.7
11.	Environmental awareness	19 500	13.0	9 000	13.2
12.	Technical and regional co-operation	19 550	13.0	7 200	10.6
	TOTAL	150 000	100.0	67 600	99.4 [*]

11. *Approves* an additional appropriation for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1992-1993 of $30 million as set out below on the understanding that this additional appropriation will be used only as and when additional resources become available to the Environment Fund once the programme of $150 million has been initiated and after consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into consideration the following apportionment:

	Subprogramme/budget line	*Amount* (Thousands of United States dollars)	*Percentage*
1.	Atmosphere	2 000	6.6
2.	Water	2 700	9.0
3.	Terrestrial ecosystems	4 180	13.9
4.	Oceans	2 530	8.4
5.	Lithosphere	150	0.5
6.	Human settlements and environment	650	2.2
7.	Human health and welfare	500	1.7
8.	Energy, industry and transportation	2 150	7.2
9.	Environmental assessment	5 500	18.3
10.	Environmental management measures	2 940	9.8
11.	Environmental awareness	2 900	9.7
12.	Technical and regional co-operation	3 800	12.7
	TOTAL	30 000	100.0

12. *Requests* the Executive Director, in the event of a shortfall of the expected contributions below the level required to finance the agreed programme for 1992-1993:

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[*] The appropriation for 1990-1991 included an apportionment of $400,000 (0.6 per cent) for the former subprogramme 9 (Peace, security and the environment), which was deleted by Council decision 16/23 of 31 May 1991.

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(a) To take into account the following alternative courses of action in formulating his response to the shortfall:

- (i) Allocation to the higher priority areas identified in table 2 of the proposed budget programme for 1992-1993 [*] of all the appropriations previously approved for them in the programme with appropriate new allocations to other priority areas to the full extent of the remaining funds; or,
- (ii) A 15 per cent cut in all programme allocations;

(b) To put his proposed response to the Committee of Permanent Representatives so that it can consider it and make recommendations;

(c) To act in accordance with the Committee's recommendations;

13. *Approves* an appropriation of $5 million to the Fund programme reserve for the biennium 1992-1993;

14. *Reconfirms* the Executive Director's authority to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by 20 per cent, within the overall appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1992-1993;

15. *Stresses again* the need to maintain the liquidity of the Fund at all times;

16. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding $20 million for Fund programme activities in 1994-1995;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director to draw up a programme for Fund activities in 1994-1995 with a core programme of $160 million and a supplementary programme of $40 million;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to keep the status of the Environment Fund under review and, in the event that he considers it necessary to adjust the 1994-1995 planning figures, to report thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and, additionally, in the event that contributions to the Environment Fund continue to increase at a high rate, to consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives with regard to drawing up an additional programme and, in either event, to act in accordance with the recommendations put forward by the Committee;

19. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its regular meetings on matters relating to programme implementation and planning, including expenditure and income profiles and planning assumptions at the programme activity level;

20. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider ways of ensuring a more stable and wider basis for voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund, including the possible use of appropriate indicative comparisons, and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/45. *Programme and programme support costs*

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 4 of its decision 15/45 of 18 May 1989, by which it approved an appropriation of $29,087,000 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991, as well as section VI, paragraph 6, of its decision 15/1

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[*] UNEP/GC.16/15.

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of 25 May 1989, by which it approved a further supplementary appropriation of $3.17 million to be used by the Executive Director during the biennium 1990-1991 only as and when he was in a position to fill some or all of the posts approved by the Council within the programme and programme support costs budget,

Having considered the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991, [77] which reviews the implementation of the budget as at 31 December 1990, as well as the proposed budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as set out in his report on programme and programme support costs, [78] and as revised in his report on relevant recent developments, [79] together with the related comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, [80]

1. *Takes note* of the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. *Notes* that the Executive Director was able to contain the programme and programme support costs in 1990 within the yardstick established in paragraph 2 of Council decision 12/19 of 28 May 1984 of 33 per cent of estimated contributions and that he will endeavour to do so in 1991 and future years;

3. *Notes with concern*, however, that the programme and programme support costs in 1990 were contained within the 33 per cent of contributions yardstick on the basis of a 24 per cent vacancy rate, greatly differing from the planned estimate of 10 per cent, and requests the Executive Director to make all possible efforts to reduce the actual vacancy rate with due attention to the 33 per cent yardstick;

4. *Reconfirms* the total appropriation of $32,257,000, including the supplementary appropriation, previously authorized for 1990-1991 with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

5. *Approves* an initial appropriation of $37,129,000 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993 with the expenditure pattern by programme and object of expenditure proposed in those estimates, with the understanding that the re-apportionment of any savings realized in the administration of the appropriation due to a higher than expected vacancy rate will be subject to the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

6. *Further approves* a supplementary appropriation for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1992-1993 of $3,701,600, including $1,601,100 on a loan basis towards the construction of new office accommodation subject to the final approval of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and $2,100,500 towards the creation of new posts, making a total appropriation of $40,830,600;

7. *Requests* that should there be a shortfall in the expected level of contributions to the Environment Fund, the Executive Director should continue to keep programme and programme support costs expenditures within 33 per cent of contributions and at the same time approve allocations in accordance with the following order of priority:

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[77] UNEP/GC.16/22 and Corr.1 (English only) and Corr.2, part one.

[78] UNEP/GC.16/22 and Corr.1 (English only) and Corr.2, part two.

[79] UNEP/GC.16/22/Add.1.

[80] UNEP/GC.16/L.1 and Corr.1.

	Millions of dollars
Programme and programme support costs as proposed in the Executive Director's original report on the subject	35.24
Loan to the regular budget for the construction of new office accommodation	3.49
Supplementary appropriation for programme and programme support costs other than the costs of construction of new office accommodation	2.10
TOTAL	40.83

8. Further requests that the supplementary appropriation of $2.1 million for programme and programme support costs other than the costs of construction of new office accommodation be utilized only after the following allocations for Fund programme and Fund programme reserve activities have been made:

	Millions of dollars
Programme of Fund activities	150.00
Fund programme reserve	5.00
Additional programme of Fund activities	30.00
TOTAL	185.00

9. *Approves* under the initial appropriation of $37,129,000 for the biennium 1992-1993 the creation of one D-1, one P-5, two P-3 and four local-level posts in the Clearing-house Unit of the Office of the Executive Director;

10. *Approves* the Executive Director's proposals to transfer from the programme and programme support costs budget to the Fund programme budget one P-5, one P-4 and two local-level posts in the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit of the Office of the Environment Programme in light of the Council's decision to reconstitute that Unit as a programme activity centre;

11. *Approves* under the supplementary appropriation for the biennium 1992-1993 the creation of an additional 20 Professional and 29 local-level posts, subject to the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as follows:

(a) *Office of the Environment Programme*. One D-1 (environmental economics), five P-5 (atmosphere, soils, human health, energy and environmental economics), three P-4 (water, biodiversity and environmental training) and 10 local-level posts;

(b) *Conferences and Governing Council Service*. Transfer of six P-4, one P-2 and 15 local-level posts from Fund programme activities to the programme and programme support costs budget;

(c) *Administrative Service*. One D-1, one P-4, two P-3 and four local-level posts to strengthen the electronic data processing and management information systems units;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to administer the appropriation for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993 with the utmost economy and restraint consistent with the effective implementation of the environment programme, bearing in mind the availability of resources;

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13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session on the implementation of the programme and programme support costs budget during the first year of the biennium 1992-1993.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/46. *Trust funds*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on additional sources of funding and management of trust funds, [a]

1. *Takes note* of the report on additional sources of funding and management of trust funds and the developments relating to trust funds administered by the Executive Director as described in his Annual Reports for 1989 and 1990, [b]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions and other organizations that have increased their support to the programme by means of contributions to trust funds, specific counterpart activities and contributions in kind;

3. *Notes with approval* the establishment by the Executive Director since the fifteenth session of the Governing Council, under the authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General, of technical co-operation trust funds, as follows:

(a) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, financed by the Government of Finland - until 31 December 1992;

(b) INFOTERRA Technical Co-operation Trust Fund, financed by the Government of the United States of America - until 31 December 1993;

(c) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Forestry Officer, financed by the Government of the United States of America - until 30 June 1991;

(d) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of Austria - without a specific expiry date;

(e) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Financing of Professional Officers, financed by the Government of the Republic of Korea - until 31 December 1991;

(f) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Assist Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries, financed by the Swedish International Development Agency - until 31 December 1991;

(g) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of France - without a specific expiry date;

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[a] UNEP/GC.16/24.

[b] UNEP/GC.16/2 and 3.

(h) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Financing of Professional Officers, financed by the Government of Finland - without a specific expiry date;

(i) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Develop and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage Caused by Conflict Between Kuwait and Iraq;

(j) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility;

4. *Also notes with approval* the extension by the Executive Director, under the authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General, of technical co-operation trust funds, as follows:

(a) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery, financed by the Government of Germany - until 31 December 1992;

(b) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Support the Clearing-house Mechanism through Provision of Consultancies on Strategies for Dealing with Serious Environmental Problems, financed by the Government of Norway - until 31 December 1991;

(c) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, financed by the Government of Finland - until 31 December 1992;

(d) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries, financed by the Government of Finland - until 31 December 1992;

(e) Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Promote Technical Co-operation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Material Management, financed by the Government of Sweden - until 31 December 1993;

5. *Also notes with approval* the change in name by the Executive Director under the authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General, of the technical co-operation trust fund now entitled "Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID, financed by the Government of Denmark";

6. *Further notes* the closure by the Executive Director of the following technical co-operation trust funds:

(a) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to the UNEP Ozone Secretariat, financed by the Government of the United States of America;

(b) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Control of Environmental Health Hazards and Promotion of Chemical Safety, financed by the Government of Germany;

(c) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP to Assist in the Development and Implementation of Policy Response Options Related to Climate Change, financed by the Government of the Netherlands;

(d) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of Finland;

7. *Approves*, subject to the approval of the Secretary-General, the extension of general trust funds, as follows:

(a) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme - until 31 December 1993;

(b) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - until 31 December 1995;

(c) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean - until 31 December 1993;

8. *Approves*, subject to confirmation by the Governments concerned and the approval of the Secretary-General, the extension of general trust funds, as follows:

(a) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region - until 31 December 1993;

(b) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas - until 31 December 1993;

(c) Regional Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - until 30 June 1993;

(d) Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution - until 31 December 1993;

(e) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region - until 31 December 1993;

(f) Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - until 31 December 1993;

(g) Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer - until 31 March 1995;

(h) Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer - until 31 March 1995;

9. *Notes with approval* the establishment authorized by the Secretary-General of the general trust fund entitled "Trust Fund for the Interim Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" from 1 January 1991 through 31 December 1993 and the request made to the Executive Director to act as treasurer of the Fund;

10. *Invites* Governments to continue and increase their support in the form of funds for the employment in the United Nations Environment Programme of additional staff, including staff from developing countries, and as for Junior Professional Officers, their employment should as far as possible include staff from developing countries;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a regular basis with overview of staffing through trust funds, indicating also all other sources of financing of United Nations Environment Programme staff and, in particular, providing information on any developments regarding the recruitment of Junior Professional Officers by the United Nations Environment Programme;

12. *Also invites* Governments to increase their financial support to specific activities within the programme provided that this increase is not at the expense of increased contributions to the Environment Fund;

13. *Urges* intergovernmental organizations, regional banks, non-governmental organizations and private corporations to increase their financial support to activities within the approved programme;

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14. *Requests* the Executive Director, in view of the proliferation of trust funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme, to evaluate the consequences for the operation of the Programme of this proliferation and produce options for reducing the number of such funds and report thereon to the Council at its seventeenth regular session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/47. *Global Environment Facility*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Facility, [83]

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Environment Facility on a pilot basis;

2. *Endorses* the actions taken by the Executive Director to support the establishment of the Facility and to collaborate with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme in its implementation;

3. *Notes* the concern expressed by some countries about the use of the per capita criterion, which has the effect of excluding some countries;

4. *Further welcomes* the actions taken by the Executive Director, in consultation with the President of the World Bank and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in establishing the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel;

5. *Notes* that the United Nations Environment Programme is required to help ensure that the global policy framework for the Global Environment Facility is consistent with existing environmental conventions and related legal instruments and agreements, and that the experience generated by the Facility will be helpful in developing new treaties and agreements, [84]

6. *Further notes* that the United Nations Environment Programme is to play a key role in helping developing countries to define their needs to deal with global environmental issues supported by the Global Environment Facility and will disseminate information on existing and emerging technological developments;

7. *Approves* the actions of the Executive Director in seeking to secure funding or recover all legitimate costs, as appropriate, from the Global Environment Facility in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its designated role under the Facility while implementing its programme under the Environment Fund;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to co-operate fully with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme in the development and implementation of the pilot Facility;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Director to include in his Annual Reports to the Governing Council an account of the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility, with regular interim reports to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

8th meeting
13 May 1991

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[83] UNEP/GC.16/24/Add.2.

[84] UNEP/GC.16/24/Add.2, para. 7.

Other decision

Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventeenth session of the Governing Council

1. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May 1991, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its seventeenth session at Nairobi from 10 to 21 May 1993.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday 9 May 1993, the day before the opening of the session.

3. The Council approved the following provisional agenda for the session:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

    (a) Election of officers;

    (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

    (a) General policy issues;

    (b) Issues arising from the resolution of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. State of the environment.

6. Co-ordination:

    (a) Co-ordination within the United Nations system;

    (b) Other co-ordination.

7. Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

8. The Environment Fund, other financial matters and administration.

9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighteenth session of the Council.

10. Other business.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the session.

Annex II

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

1. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Charles A. Liburd (Guyana) the Programme Committee held 13 meetings between 20 and 27 May 1991, to consider agenda item 7 (Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification), agenda item 6 (a) (Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and those parts of agenda item 6 (b) (Reports and follow-up of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification).

2. At the 1st meeting of the Committee, held on 20 May 1991, Mr. J.N.O. Onyango (Kenya) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation. The Committee also approved the organization of its work, as proposed in document UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.1.

3. In considering the items on its work programme, the Committee had before it the following documentation: the suggested timetable for the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.1); chapter III of the Annual Report of the Executive Director for 1989 (UNEP/GC.16/2); chapter III of the Annual Report of the Executive Director for 1990 (UNEP/GC.16/3); joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNEP/GC.16/11); part II of the 1990 Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session (UNEP/GC.16/12); part II of the 1989 Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at the sixteenth session (UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1 (English and French only)); proposed programme budget of UNEP for the biennium 1992-1993 (UNEP/GC.16/15 and Corr.1); set of proposed additional activities for 1992-1993 (UNEP/GC.16/15/Add.1); implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1989-1990 (UNEP/GC.16/16 and Corr.1); external evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GC.16/16/Add.1); report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas (UNEP/GC.16/18); international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.16/19); updated list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance (UNEP/GC.16/20 and Corr.1); programme matters requiring policy guidance from the Council (UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only)); strengthening three main units within the Office of the Environment Programme by the establishment of programme activity centres (PACs) (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.1 and Corr.1); modifications to the UNEP medium-term plan by the General Assembly (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.2 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2); climate change, biological diversity, sustainable agriculture (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3); environmentally sound management of chemicals, in particular those that are banned or severely restricted, in international trade (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.4); strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.5); register of international treaties and other agreements in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.16/Inf.4).

4. The Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Programme, in introducing item 7, indicated those areas that required policy guidance. He referred to the Annual Reports of the Executive Director for 1989 and 1990 for a review of past activities, and pointed out the relationship between the proposed programme budget and the system-wide medium-term environment programme (SWMTEP) for the period 1990-1995. He also drew attention to the fact that UNEP's proposed programme of action took full account of recent General Assembly resolutions on environmental issues and placed greater emphasis on regional co-operation and inter-agency co-ordination. The

proposed programme budget, he pointed out, focused on the seven areas of concentration defined by the Governing Council in its decision 15/1. The Assistant Executive Director referred to the activities contained in the proposed programme and indicated the interrelationship among the different sub-programmes. He asked the members of the Committee for their views and guidance.

A. *Subprogramme 1: Atmosphere*

Programme element 1.1: Atmospheric pollution and climate

5. Several representatives asked for clarification of UNEP's intentions regarding support for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a framework convention on climate change. Responding to this, a representative of the secretariat confirmed that UNEP gave high priority to the INC, provided support for the INC Secretariat and related technical seminars, and intended to provide information for such countries to clarify aspects of the issues involved.

6. One representative expressed the view that the future programme dealing with atmospheric pollution and climate contained few new activities. Speaking in reply, a representative of the secretariat stated that the intention was to build on activities of the current biennium; however, there were plans to expand national climate impact networking and international co-ordination of such programmes through UNEP and to co-operate in new monitoring programmes initiated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

7. Several representatives asked what UNEP was doing to ensure co-ordination of climate activities with other bodies. One representative drew attention to the recommendations of the Second World Climate Conference pertaining to UNEP and expressed the hope that UNEP would respond positively to them. In reply, a member of the secretariat stated that recommendations of the Second World Climate Conference, endorsed by the Eleventh Congress of WMO, called for a co-ordination mechanism for the World Climate Programme (WCP), focusing on the establishment of a Committee of chairmen of the four components of the World Climate Programme, including the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for the former World Climate Impact Studies Programme, now renamed the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP). Other co-ordination measures, he added, included regular meetings of senior representatives and annual meetings of executive heads of organizations participating in the World Climate Programme. There would also be an intergovernmental meeting to discuss appropriate means for co-ordination and the provision of adequate resources for the WCP, which would be convened by WMO, with support from UNEP and others, before the end of 1992.

8. Some representatives said that UNEP should ensure that activities being implemented under the new Global Environment Facility (GEF) were not duplicated by similar activities carried out under the WCIRP, but should be mutually reinforced. Another representative asked that plans to estimate the costs of responding to climate change be co-ordinated with those of IPCC, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and OECD, which were undertaking similar activities. Yet another representative said that country-specific studies should be undertaken in conjunction with UNDP.

9. Several representatives asked what activities UNEP planned to undertake in support of UNCED with regard to climate and atmospheric pollution matters. In reply, a representative of the secretariat stated that UNEP co-operated closely with the Preparatory Committee for UNCED and would publish a significant number of relevant studies in conjunction with and in support of UNCED.

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10. Some representatives asked that special attention be given to assessing the impacts of climate change in semi-arid regions and coastal zones.

11. The observer for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of Unesco noted the importance of ocean processes in influencing the rate of climate change and drew attention to IOC's co-operation with UNEP in developing climate impact assessments and response strategies in coastal regions.

12. One representative expressed his country's concern over the lack of information on urban air quality in tropical cities. A representative of the secretariat said that UNEP, in co-operation with WHO, addressed this issue, particularly in tropical regions.

13. One representative referred to the high cost of implementing the provisions of the Montreal Protocol in developing countries and indicated that such countries would need additional financial assistance in this regard.

14. The observer for WMO stressed the importance of the atmospheric monitoring programmes established by WMO and supported by UNEP. He urged that UNEP provide additional support for monitoring programmes, especially the Global Atmosphere Watch, which was a major component of the proposed Global Climate Observing System, recommended by the Second World Climate Conference, and noted the co-operative efforts of UNEP, WMO and other relevant organizations in drawing up a plan to combat the impacts of oil fires in Kuwait.

B. *Subprogramme 2: Water*

15. A number of representatives expressed their support and appreciation for UNEP's programme on freshwater. One representative asked that UNEP focus more on pollution prevention and control, as well as on management of freshwater resources, and asked UNEP to put greater emphasis on preventive mechanisms with regard to pollution. The same representative pointed to the need to examine water reuse.

16. One representative asked UNEP for more allocations to developing countries in order to strengthen their institutional capabilities.

17. Some representatives stated that UNEP should put more emphasis on water management in large urban settlements. One representative and the observer from the International Lake Environment Committee pointed to the proposed creation of a UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan, which would deal, *inter alia*, with freshwater lake/river basins, and enhance rather than duplicate existing activities.

18. Several delegates sought clarification on UNEP's involvement in the preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment to be held in Dublin. In reply, the representative of the secretariat said that UNEP's support entailed the preparation of two keynote position papers on the main theme of the Conference and of the document for the working group on action plans for the environmentally sound management of freshwater resources. UNEP, he further stated, was also providing financial support for participants from developing countries and other support for the Secretariat of the Conference.

19. One delegate sought general clarification of the status of preparation of action plans for shared freshwater bodies and of the 1995 target of one plan per region. In reply, the representative of the secretariat said that UNEP was providing financial support to the implementation of some of the programmes under the Zambezi Action Plan. The Lake Chad Action Plan, he pointed out, would be submitted to Heads of State for approval later in 1991. Further, he stated, preliminary negotiations had been held with the

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Governments of Colombia and Venezuela for the preparation of an action plan on the Orinoco Basin, as well as preliminary discussions with the Governments of the riparian countries of the Nile basin concerning the preparation of an action plan. An assessment of fourteen shared water bodies had been completed in the Asian region, he stated.

20. One representative stressed the importance of UNEP's participation in the preparation of the Action Plan for the rescue of the Aral Sea and in the assessment of the state of Lake Baikal.

21. One representative asked for clarification concerning the costs for each action plan. In reply, the representative of the secretariat stated that this varied according to the size and environmental status of each basin but that approximately US$100,000 to $200,000 were needed for the preparation of national action plans and approximately US$500,000 for the preparation of international action plans. Additional funds were required for their implementation.

C. *Subprogramme 3: Terrestrial ecosystems*

1. *Programme element 3.1: Soils, agricultural lands and agrochemicals*

22. Several representatives noted the urgency of the problem of soil degradation and expressed the view that it could be best addressed within the framework of the national soils policies developed by UNEP under the plan of action for the implementation of the World Soils Policy. One representative expressed concern about widespread soil salinization and waterlogging. Another delegation considered that land degradation problems should be tackled at the national and local levels. One representative stressed the importance of UNEP's assistance to developing countries in the formulation of national soils policies, which should be integrated into overall national development plans.

23. One representative noted with satisfaction UNEP's Global Assessment of Soil Degradation (GLASOD) project and its outputs, and the project's contribution to the preparation of the World Atlas of Desertification and the Soil and Terrain Digital Database (SOTER) methodology for the compilation of soils and terrain databases. This and other similar projects, he stated, were capable of providing essential ingredients for the formulation of national soils policies.

24. One representative requested more details on soil mapping and its cost and stated that his Government gave high priority to the formulation and implementation of national soils policies. One representative requested information on UNEP's inputs into UNCED's work in that area. The representative of the UNEP secretariat replied that UNEP was preparing one of the five papers in this area for UNCED, and was actively co-operating in the preparatory work for UNCED.

25. On the issue of sustainable agriculture, one representative expressed the view that document UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3 gave ample information on the results of Governing Council decision 15/24 in the field of sustainable agriculture. However, the outcome of the recent FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment held from 15-20 April in Den Bosch Netherlands, could not, for understandable reasons, be included in the document. The Conference produced a declaration and agenda for action focussing on low-external-input sustainable agriculture (LEISA). The representative further evaluated the new policy lines that had been developed during the Conference.

26. The observer for FAO, responding to the question made by one delegation, as to the way in which the UNCED preparatory process was dealing with the question of land resources, stated that FAO was very actively contributing to UNCED's Working Party on Land and Agriculture, which was producing three main documents for the Preparatory Committee: (i) integrated land management with emphasis on marginal lands and main agro-ecosystems, (ii) sustainable agriculture, which was based essentially on the outcome of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment and (iii) control of land degradation and desertification.

2. *Programme element 3.2: Arid lands and desertification*

27. In considering this programme element, the Committee also took up discussion of agenda item 6 (b): "Co-ordination questions: reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination".

28. A number of representatives expressed their general support for the recommendations contained in the report of the Executive Director on the external evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD) (UNEP/GC.16/16/Add.1). One representative, however, asked for an explanation of how the recommendations would be followed up. Another representative was of the opinion that the report could have suggested more specific recommendations on the revision of the PACD, including making use of a special working group for this purpose. One representative, while agreeing with the conclusion of the report that the PACD was a continuous process, and hence difficult to target, expressed the view that milestones could, however, be identified. Another representative voiced the opinion that the co-ordinating role of UNEP had not received much attention in the evaluation report.

29. Many representatives recommended that co-ordination of anti-desertification activities should be improved not only at the international and regional levels, but also at national and even local levels. Responding to some of the queries raised on this subject, the representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that UNEP already complied with that request by working closely with the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Desertification (IGADD), the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), the African Deserts and Arid Lands Committee of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres in Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP) and the Regional Environment Network Asia/Pacific (RENN-A/P). UNEP, he added, had also initiated action to establish a regional network on desertification-related research and training in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

30. Many representatives requested that the findings of the external evaluation of the PACD be submitted to the UNCED Preparatory Committee as soon as possible. The representative of the secretariat replied that a composite report on "Status of Desertification and Implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification" was being prepared, as requested under General Assembly resolution 44/172, and would be submitted to UNCED. He also provided information on the current status of preparation of the document.

31. Some representatives expressed the view that combating desertification should be a priority activity of UNEP. One representative suggested that UNEP could focus on marginal areas. Another representative was of the opinion that it would be better to focus on a few countries. One representative requested the UNEP secretariat to look into the possibility of paying more attention to China. One representative also stressed the importance of including in the work of the programme the problem of desertification the Aral Sea area.

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32. While supporting the recommendation to retain the Consultative Group for Desertification Control (DESCON), a number of representatives suggested that its mandate should be changed to concentrate on information exchange, co-ordination and advice. Some representatives, however, said that, although they could support a change and a reduction in the mandate of DESCON, they wondered whether DESCON could not be abolished completely.

33. In reply to a question from one representative about the use of funds allocated for DESCON in the programme if it were to be abolished, the representative of the secretariat said that such funds would be available for other activities. In reply to a question from another representative on the effect of a changed DESCON mandate on UNEP expenditures, the representative of the secretariat said that there would be no changes in the costs of convening DESCON sessions.

34. It was proposed by a number of representatives that the DESCON-8 session be of a special character, devoted mainly to contributing to UNCED. Other representatives, however, expressed the view that the activities under the programme should however be kept flexible pending the outcome of UNCED.

35. Many representatives, supported the need to refine the concept of desertification, as recommended in the Executive Director's external evaluation of the PACD. In response to the above suggestion the representative of the secretariat referred the Committee to the definition adopted by the February 1990 *ad hoc* consultative meeting on the ongoing global assessment which described desertification as land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, resulting from adverse human impact.

36. In this regard, a number of representatives urged the donor community to pledge funds to finance anti-desertification programmes, while some others expressed the view that further research into financing mechanisms was necessary. A number of representatives noted, however, that the funding depended very much on the degree of efficiency and effectiveness with which funds were used. One representative emphasized that financial assistance should take into account the fact that desertification control required long-term efforts, while another representative suggested that technical assistance should be incorporated into plans of action to combat desertification.

37. In reply to a question on the procedure for obtaining assistance in formulating national plans of action to combat desertification, the representative of the secretariat pointed out that UNEP acted on requests from Governments.

38. Many representatives stressed the importance of socio-economic factors and recommended that PACD should be integrated into overall development plans. Many representatives pointed out that the participation of the local population was essential, in both the design and implementation phases of projects.

39. Several representatives expressed the opinion that the experiences of regional co-operation organizations should be fully utilized. The observer for the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference said that the contributions of regional organizations to the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification (IAWGD) could be much more effective if their observer status could be changed into full membership. In reply, the representative of the secretariat replied that the observer status of regional organizations such as CILSS, IGADD or SADCC to IAWGD was in accordance with a Governing Council resolution from the thirteenth session. Full membership would indeed enhance the work of IAWGD, he said, and the Governing Council might consider recommending the full membership of these organizations in IAWGD.

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40. A number of representatives, stressed the importance of national and local programmes within a national co-ordinated framework. In that connection, the representative of the secretariat referred to the initiative of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) in organizing meetings covering the harmonization of strategic frameworks for environment and natural-resource management at the country level.

41. A number of representatives stressed the importance of training and research activities. The representative of the secretariat said that DESCON-7 and the first meeting of a panel of senior consultants on the revised PACD had recommended looking into the institutional set-up of the centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research for this purpose.

42. Many representatives urged UNEP to encourage the utilization of comparable methodologies in analysing, measuring, assessing and monitoring desertification effects. One representative asked if there were proposed activities for analysis of soil degradation which occurred as a result of intensive agricultural practices, especially when subsidies were used. To this the representative of the secretariat replied that the issue was not addressed in the proposed activities. However, the recent conference on agriculture and environment in the Netherlands had addressed the issue of new strategies in that regard and the Global Assessment of Soil Degradation (GLASOD) database contained useful information.

43. As concerns technology, some representatives suggested that ample attention be given to the transfer of technology.

44. One representative commended the work of UNEP related to the preparation of the World Atlas on Thematic Indicators of Desertification, while another representative expressed appreciation for the fact that the Global Assessment of Soil Degradation database had been used for the atlas.

45. One representative stressed that the impact of climate change on regions affected by desertification should not be forgotten. The representative of the secretariat replied that attention was being given to the monitoring of drought-prone areas through the GRID programme, with emphasis on Africa.

46. One representative said that the French initiative of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) had not been mentioned in document UNEP/GC.16/16. The representative of the secretariat regretted the omission and confirmed that UNEP co-operated closely in the joint project to develop a methodology to assess ecological changes in the West African Sahel.

47. The observer for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office reported on joint action with UNEP in relation to the preparations for UNCED, and briefed the Council on other major activities. The links between UNEP and UNSO, he said, had strengthened in recent years, both at the institutional level and in practical activities such as monitoring and assessment.

3. *Programme element 3.3: Forests and other ecosystems*

48. Several representatives highlighted the importance of the forests and other ecosystems programme to UNEP's overall work, which according to one representative illustrated UNEP's appropriate catalytic role.

49. While one representative supported the continued efforts within the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and the co-operative project to develop methodologies to assess the real value of forests, several others emphasized the economic dimension of forests, in addition to the ecological dimension. One representative expressed the view that more attention needed to be given to the management of agricultural activities to reduce deforestation. Another representative stressed the need for sustainable forest management, particularly regarding meeting the needs for fuelwood.

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50. One representative mentioned the need for information on the role of deforestation in climate change. One representative called for continuation within the programme of work on the protection of genetic resources of tropical forests and biosphere reserves.

51. A number of representatives raised the question of an international convention, agreement, or guiding principles on forests. Some of these representatives recalled that a definitive direction on these issues still had to be decided within the UNCED process. One representative, pointing to the guidelines for sustainable forest management developed by the International Tropical Timber Organization, emphasized the need to avoid duplication in the development of guidelines. Several representatives stressed the global dimension of the conservation and management of forests, stating that conventions on climate change and biological diversity could only partially address the issue and that a separate instrument could address forests in terms of their broad, multiple uses. Such an instrument, stated these representatives, should be flexible and based on individual country targets. One representative urged that preparatory work on a legal instrument should proceed rapidly.

52. Some other representatives expressed concern about the development of an international legal instrument on forests. One representative, while voicing support for the development of a convention on forests, stated that such an instrument should not be forced on countries but should be introduced when the time was right. The observer for FAO indicated that, in the same way that FAO had assisted in the preparation of legal and technical elements for the convention on biological diversity, FAO was ready, as instructed by its Council in November 1990, to start the preparations for a legal instrument on forests, duly harmonized with those on climate change and on biological diversity, once Governments had given the green light on how to proceed.

53. Several representatives noted the role of the UNCED process in determining whether work should be initiated on such a convention. One representative drew attention to the in-depth studies of forest issues requested by the UNCED Preparatory Committee.

4. *Programme element 3.4: Biological diversity*

54. Many representatives expressed support for UNEP's activities under the programme element in general and for the preparation of country studies on biological diversity in particular. Several representatives noted that it was important to ensure the effective and full participation of developing countries in the negotiation of the planned legal instrument on biological diversity. One representative, however, expressed concern about supporting developing countries' participation from the Environment Fund and recommended the establishment of a trust fund for this purpose. The same representative, while commending the ongoing effort for the preparation of country studies and the existing level of work, recommended that country studies on biological diversity be supported on a bilateral basis.

55. The representative of the UNEP secretariat explained that, in the absence of external funding, it had been necessary to include a substantial allocation for support to the convention. Efforts were being made, however, to secure additional funding and, indeed, such funding had been provided by several countries in the past meetings of the Group. He further stated that the proposed country studies would also contribute to the implementation of the biodiversity projects to be funded through the Global Environment Facility.

56. One representative recommended the establishment of a multidisciplinary steering group for the application of the guidelines for the preparation of country studies, with the aim of ensuring consistency and the comparability of

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individual studies. Two representatives indicated that their Governments were prepared to provide financial support for the preparation of country studies, based on the guidelines. One representative stated that his Government had initiated the preparation of a country study based on the guidelines.

57. Several representatives stated that support for participation of the developing countries in the negotiating process should continue to be a high priority. One representative expressed the view that the process of negotiating the convention on biological diversity would be strengthened by inviting other international organizations to participate directly.

58. Many representatives were in favour of changing the name of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Biological Diversity into the "Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee", to reflect the actual mandate and goal of the group. One representative stressed that the convention on biological diversity should place strong emphasis on marine biodiversity and UNEP should intensify its support for this area. The same representative went on to say that development of national conservation strategies should not be restricted to biodiversity issues.

59. There was general agreement that 1992, the year of UNCED, should be the target date for signing the convention. Some representatives however, pointed out that expediency in putting together the convention should not sacrifice its content. One representative stressed the importance of the participation and support of relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and other international organizations in the preparation of the convention.

60. One representative asked for continuous support and monitoring of existing conventions related to biodiversity, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Another representative strongly supported UNEP's role in providing the secretariats for CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

61. Several representatives supported UNEP's involvement in the preparation of the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) for the 1990s and the Global Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. One representative stated that both strategies were world-wide in scope and that co-ordination between the two was necessary. Another representative supported UNEP's promotion of the WCS and the Global Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy.

62. One representative proposed that the programme element be upgraded into a sub-programme. He also proposed that UNEP should play a greater role in selecting projects related to biological diversity to be financed by the Global Environment Facility and should increase its support to training in this area.

5. *Programme element 3.5: Microbial resources and related biotechnologies*

63. Several representatives emphasized the importance of the subprogramme. One representative stressed, in particular, the importance of the MIRCENs network.

64. Some representatives emphasized the importance of biosafety issues, while one expressed concern about the possible duplication of work in this area and requested full co-ordination and co-operation with FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCED, and OECD.

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D. *Subprogramme 4: Oceans*

65. All representatives that spoke on the subject expressed their appreciation and full support for the activities of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC) and for the emphasis on the regional seas programme. One representative encouraged the expansion of the regional seas action plans, and advocated the use of large marine ecosystems as a regional management tool.

66. One representative suggested that it would be suitable to carry out an in-depth appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses in the Regional Seas Programmes, in order to learn from the success of specific components. A member of the UNEP secretariat pointed out that such an evaluation was being carried out.

67. Some representatives requested more funding for the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme. One representative requested a regional seas programme for the South-West Atlantic.

68. A number of representatives supported the focus on integrated coastal zone management, and proposed that the national capacities of developing countries in coastal zone management be developed through appropriate training.

69. Several representatives addressing the destruction of fragile ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs, encouraged UNEP's planned efforts in this area. Several representatives expressed their strong interest in UNEP's work on the marine mammals action plan. One representative requested more information on new programmes concerning marine mammals.

70. Several representatives suggested that the impressive results already achieved at the Halifax Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution in identifying strategies to control such sources of pollution of the marine environment should be complemented at a further meeting. Such a meeting could prepare in detail a strategy and a framework for an action plan to control land-based sources of marine pollution, as well as other land-based activities which degraded the marine environment, and the meeting's results should be submitted to the UNCED Preparatory Committee at its fourth session.

71. The observer for WMO expressed appreciation for the numerous co-operative initiatives between WMO and UNEP, most recently in the wake of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict. Some representatives encouraged co-operation between IOC and UNEP programmes on the monitoring of long-term effects of climate change.

72. The observer for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO drew the attention of the Council to the numerous joint programmes between IOC and UNEP, especially concerning measures to control and abate pollution, global ocean monitoring, inputs into Earthwatch and assessment of the impact of climate change, as well as the good co-operation within the United Nations system in this field.

73. One representative encouraged co-ordination and information exchange between regional programmes within the United Nations system. The representative also requested that UNEP study the fluctuations in the growth of the OCA/PAC budget.

74. The observer for IMO informed the Committee of the recent adoption of the International Convention on Oil Pollution, Preparation, Response and Co-operation in 1990. He pointed out that one of the objectives of the Convention was to enhance the capacity of countries to prepare for and respond to oil pollution emergency through international co-operation and mutual

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assistance and encouraged States to accept the Convention. He expressed the hope that increased emphasis could be placed on such matters within the Regional Seas Programme, which IMO fully supported.

75. Some representatives suggested that the activities planned for 1992-1993 should retain some flexibility to adapt to the outcome of UNCED.

E. *Subprogramme 5: Lithosphere*

76. Some representatives queried the usefulness of the lithosphere subprogramme and its impacts. Expressing support for this view, another representative suggested that most activities under the subprogramme could be carried out by other United Nations agencies such as WMO, UNESCO, ECA, UNIDO, and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and that the studies on biogeochemical cycles could be transferred to other UNEP subprogrammes. He questioned the need to continue with the activities, particularly at a time of great competition for limited resources.

77. One representative commended UNEP for supporting research activities dealing with the biogeochemical cycles of sulphur, phosphorus and carbon and the environmental problems they presented. Referring to sulphur, he stated that air pollution and acidification of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems were important issues. He stressed that enrichment of surface and groundwater resources with phosphates from the application of agrochemicals, detergents and from sewage posed the threat of polluting a scarce resource, affecting many developing countries.

78. Speaking in reply, the representative of the secretariat pointed out that the activities under the subprogramme were important in three respects: first, to limit the amount of waste resulting from mining activities which often leached into rivers; second, to address specific questions pertaining to groundwater and its replenishment; and finally, because storage of hazardous waste in the lithosphere (mostly in abandoned mines) affected the hydrological cycle.

F. *Subprogramme 6: Human settlements and the environment*

1. *Programme element 6.1: Environmental aspects of human settlements planning and management*

79. Several representatives stressed the importance of the environmental aspects of rapid urban growth in developing countries, and suggested that special emphasis should be placed on the problems of mega-cities.

80. One representative, while supporting the activities under the human settlements and the environment programme element, said that rural settlements should also be taken into account. The needs of small island countries and their coastal areas, he stated, should also be reflected in the allocation of resources.

81. Several representatives specifically supported the activity for establishment of policy options for four coastal settlements in the context of sea-level rise. The representatives emphasized that this activity should be co-ordinated with the ongoing work of the International Negotiating Committee for a convention on climate and related activities in the Oceans and Coastal Areas programmes of UNEP.

82. The observer for the World Health Organization described the ongoing collaboration with UNEP in the area of environmental health aspects of human settlements, and stated that the excellent guidelines prepared under a joint project could now be applied in selected countries and regions.

83. In considering this programme element, the Committee also took up discussion of agenda item 6 (a) "Co-ordination Questions: Co-operation between UNEP and UNCHS."

84. All representatives who spoke on the subject expressed their satisfaction with the collaboration between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the four areas of co-operation described in the joint report of the Executive Directors of UNEP and Habitat (UNEP/GC.16/11) and suggested that these should be expanded to include other areas. Underlining the close connections between human settlements and the environment, the representatives stated that the rapid urban growth in most developing countries was, in particular, a cause for concern. Special emphasis under new activities should be given to the sustainable cities programme and the control of pollution in human settlements. One representative underlined the importance of the studies on the release of methane from land fills.

85. Some representatives emphasized that, in light of sea-level rise, activities should be expanded to focus on coastal settlements, the improvement of the living and working conditions of the low-income population and the provision of an adequate supply of drinking water.

86. One representative emphasized the need to co-ordinate UNCHS and UNEP inputs into the UNCED process, so that the environmental aspects of human settlements could be reflected in the outcome of UNCED. One representative suggested that, taking note of the interesting recommendations of the UNCHS on habitat and sustainable development, this issue should be high on the agenda.

87. The observer for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements welcomed the increased collaboration with UNEP and singled out some of the main joint activities, especially the sustainable cities programme and the assessment of environmental conditions in human settlements. The representative stated that the interlinkage between human settlements and the environment had been the main theme at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

2. *Programme element 6.2: Community preparedness for natural and man-made environmental disasters*

88. Several representatives, speaking in connection with the proposed United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance under this programme element, said they preferred to reserve their discussions on the matter for the plenary session of the Council. Some representatives requested UNEP to provide more detailed information on related activities within the United Nations system, including the reports prepared by the consultants, as background for the plenary discussion on the subject.

89. Replying to the request, the representative of the secretariat stated that the reports of the consultants were available for study within UNEP and, as regards further information, the summary report on responses of Governments and agencies concerning the proposed Centre would be made available.

90. One representative strongly urged that the Centre be established as soon as possible in view of the long period since the idea had first been proposed in 1988 and the elaborate preparations that had already been undertaken. He also stated that, since that time, a number of major environmental emergencies had occurred and, had a Centre been in operation, these emergencies would have been handled with the minimum of environmental damage and loss of life. Another representative expressed support for the proposed centre.

91. Some representatives questioned the placing of the initiative for the Centre under programme element 6.2, in view of the many other possibilities, such as under the Industry and Environment Office and its Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme, or under Earthwatch. Several representatives expressed the view that the proposed activities of the Centre would be more in line with the concept of networking between existing initiatives, rather than creation of a full-fledged Centre.

92. One representative suggested that what was needed was the strengthening of the United Nations' capacity to respond to emergencies. UNEP's role in this respect would be to assess an environmental emergency in both the short-term and long-term period through the provision of expertise. The representative of the secretariat, speaking in reply, confirmed that the idea had not been to establish a centre, but rather an expert service mechanism, along the lines suggested by the representative.

93. The observer for IMO speaking on behalf of IAEA, WHO, ILO, FAO, UNIDO and WMO, drew attention to the fact that the agencies, at the most recent inter-agency consultation in February 1991, had expressed the view that with the information available they could not support the establishment of a centre for co-ordination response to environmental emergencies. They believed that more work in modalities of operation of such a centre was required and more emphasis should be given to increasing active co-operation among participating agencies and enhancing their capabilities. There was, he said, genuine concern among the agencies, in particular those who had arrangements for co-ordinating a response to environmental emergencies, that the creation of a new arrangement might add a new layer of bureaucracy between those needing emergency assistance and those most able to provide it. It was suggested that, in view of the importance of the matter and the potential for duplication and confusion, a more cautious approach should be adopted.

G. *Subprogramme 7: Human health and welfare*

1. *Programme element 7.1: Hazards of pollution*

94. Several representatives stressed the importance of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), and one representative declared that the work on chemical safety could count on continued support. One representative suggested that IPCS should be strengthened to deal with issues such as harmonization of labelling, good laboratory practices, risk analysis and risk reduction and assistance to developing countries in toxic chemical management. He praised the work of IPCS in connection with a possible intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and risk management of chemicals and urged UNEP, in collaboration with ILO and WHO, to convene a meeting of government experts to develop proposals for such a mechanism. Another representative supported the activities of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC).

95. One representative referred to the dynamic developments in the field of management of chemicals in international trade, pointing to UNEP's pioneering role in enabling developing countries to make informed decisions on future importation of chemicals. He commended the work on the Amended London Guidelines and the prior informed consent procedure (PIC) for banned and severely restricted chemicals and noted with satisfaction the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Amended London Guidelines. He suggested that the Governing Council should follow the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group, in particular concerning the continuation of the work of the Group and the strengthening of the legal basis of the Amended Guidelines through the development of a convention. The representative commended UNEP's co-operation with other agencies, in particular FAO, which also operated a similar PIC procedure for pesticides.

96. One representative, while expressing broad support for the implementation of the Amended London Guidelines, stated that further work on a convention would be premature and the emphasis should be placed on implementation of the guidelines before any further work could be undertaken.

97. Another representative expressed broad support for all activities described under subprogramme 7, noting that they reflected a favourable balance between ecology and human health. The representative also supported

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the link between IPCS and IRPTC, as well as with the Amended London Guidelines. The same representative further sought clarification of the proposed new activities (numbers 2, 3, 5) under the programme element.

98. In reply, the representative of the secretariat explained that the proposed guidelines for environmental standard setting (new activity 2) were intended to implement recommendations of an earlier UNEP/WHO study on the subject. The increase in noise pollution in urban centres of many developing countries had made necessary an evaluated health risk assessment document (new activity 3). With regard to the health effects of urban air pollution (new activity 5), increased air pollution in urban centres of several developing countries had resulted in significant health risks. An epidemiological study and the development of control strategies could be undertaken, in co-operation with the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

99. One representative, while expressing support for the activities under the subprogramme, in particular IPCS and management of hazardous wastes and disease vector control, asked what justification there had been for the doubling in 1992-1993 of the funds allocated to IPCS. In reply, the representative of the secretariat explained that increased support for IPCS was necessitated by its expanding role in preparing risk evaluation documents on an increasing number of chemicals, in particular those that were subject to PIC procedures, in training manpower to manage chemicals and dealing with chemical emergencies.

100. The observer for the World Health Organization noted with satisfaction a number of collaborative activities it had with UNEP and in particular concerning IPCS, which provided the main focus of collaboration. He welcomed UNEP's proposed new activities in the areas of noise pollution, urban air pollution and environmental standard setting.

2. *Programme element 7.2: Environmental aspects of human health*

101. One representative informed the Committee that, despite major efforts to control cholera in the West Pacific Region, the disease was becoming endemic and that already 160,000 people were at risk. The same representative also stated that, as a result, an international effort was needed to control the situation. Another representative supported the proposed activities on disease vector control.

102. The observer for the World Health Organization (WHO) informed the Committee about the work of the WHO Commission on Health and the Environment which was supported by panels on food and agriculture, energy, industrialization and urbanization, insofar as this related to health. The report of the Commission would provide an input on environment and health into UNCED.

H. *Subprogramme 8: Energy, industry and transportation*

1. *Programme element 8.1: Energy and environment*

103. Many representatives stressed the importance of the energy subprogramme, in view of the vital role of energy utilization in all aspects of development and the adverse environmental effects associated with present energy production and use patterns. They considered atmospheric pollution and the energy sectors' contribution to the greenhouse effect to be a significant problem.

104. Several representatives considered the new focus on energy efficiency and conservation to be very appropriate and they underlined the need to promote clean, new and renewable sources of energy such as hydropower, solar power and wind power.

105. One representative especially praised the activity covering support for developing countries to strengthen their capacity to integrate environmental concerns into national energy policy, planning and development. The representative also stressed that the national studies should examine the possible application of renewable energy sources in integrated rural development schemes.

106. Several representatives noted that collaboration was envisaged with a number of United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations, but considered that the links to the World Bank in particular and to its Energy Sector Management and Assistance Programme (ESMAP) should be strengthened. The possibility of allocating additional funds for national activities from the Global Environment Facility should be examined carefully, they said. With respect to the GEF, one representative expressed his Government's concern that the use of the per capita criteria would limit some developing countries access to those resources.

107. Some representatives expressed their concern at the activity to provide support for the adoption of legal measures on climate change, and emphasized that UNEP should avoid duplication with the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on a convention on climate change. The representative of the secretariat explained that the aim was in no way to interfere with the ongoing negotiating process, but to make the developed Greenhouse Gas Scenario System available to Governments and the IPCC as a tool for analysing abatement strategies.

108. One representative considered that the activities related to efficient technologies and energy conservation should not imply direct involvement in technology development activities, but should focus on information gathering and dissemination.

109. Several representatives raised the issue of technology transfer in relation to efficient energy technologies and considered it was an area where increased efforts should be made, especially in providing information on the relevant technologies to developing countries.

110. The observers for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the EC Commission also emphasized the importance of the activities under the energy and environment programme element and of the collaboration between their organizations and UNEP.

111. The observer for IAEA informed the Committee about the outcome of the Senior Expert Symposium on Electricity and the Environment convened in Helsinki 13 to 17 May 1991, which had been organized as a major inter-agency collaborative effort involving, among others, IAEA and UNEP. The collaboration would continue in several areas, initially in the enhancement of the energy environment database.

112. The observer for WHO spoke of the collaboration with UNEP on the energy, environment and health database, which was a priority under the WHO energy programme, and went on to list the priority areas identified by the WHO Technical Panel on Energy and Health.

113. The observer for UNIDO spoke about the priority given to energy and environment issues in UNIDO and the new action programme in this area, which would be presented to the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO later in 1991. The representative expressed the need for collaboration between UNIDO and UNEP in the implementation of that new programme.

2. *Programme element 8.2: Industry and environment*

114. Many representatives highlighted the importance of the industry and environment programme element, as it reflected the growing importance of cross-sectoral issues that UNEP should address. Several of these representatives highlighted the role of industry partners and the need for co-operation between the various actors concerned, in particular NGO's. Several other representatives recommended that developing countries should be informed in advance of the potential environmental impact of transferred technologies. Some representatives underlined the link between energy and industry.

115. Many representatives expressed their full appreciation for the work of the UNEP Industry and Environment Office (IEO). A number of them supported IEO's becoming a programme activity centre and said the Office should be given more substantial resources. The observers from ILO, the World Tourism Organization (WTO), UNIDO and the Commission of the European Communities, expressed satisfaction with their ongoing co-operation with IEO and wished to see such co-operation increased.

116. Several representatives and the observer for the Commission of the European Communities referred to the importance of dissemination of information and data, particularly in the field of low- and non-waste technologies, as a means to transfer technologies. A number of representatives stressed the importance of the information on cleaner production, and of the International Cleaner Production Information Clearing-house (ICPIC). A number of representatives expressed concern about the proposed UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan, suggesting that regional or national collaborating centres should be established to create a network co-ordinated by IEO. The Centre in Japan, they stated, could be welcomed as such a regional collaborating centre. Several countries expressed their desire to see the detailed terms of reference before any decision could be taken on the Centre. One delegation informed the Committee that the Centre in Japan would focus on pollution problems in mega-cities, specifically in developing countries. It was pointed out that the secretariat had prepared a note which described, *inter alia*, activities of the Centre.

117. A number of representatives considered that a global convention on industrial accidents was not necessary, and that a regional approach would be more appropriate, as was currently being undertaken by the ECE. Several representatives and the observer for the Commission of the European Communities commended the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme. Some representatives and the observer for ILO recommended that greater emphasis should be put on preventive aspects, and that IEO should take a leading role in co-ordinating United Nations activities in this area. One country described the development of the APELL programme in his country and expressed a desire to continue co-operation with IEO on the subject.

3. *Programme element 8.3: Transportation*

118. A number of representatives and the observer from the Commission of the European Communities welcomed the increased activities of the transportation programme element along the lines proposed in the programme budget document.

4. *Programme element 8.4: Tourism*

119. Several representatives and the observer from the EC Commission supported the development of the tourism programme. One other representative, however, expressed reservations about this new activity. The observer for the World Tourism Organization (WTO) expressed satisfaction in seeing this new programme element and expressed a wish to continue the co-operation with UNEP in that field.

120. Some representatives mentioned the workshop entitled "Towards sustainable coastal tourism" (Mombasa, 21-23 April 1991) as a good example of a national activity that could be undertaken in this context.

5. *Programme element 8.5: Working environment*

121. Some representatives expressed the view that priority should not be given to activities under the working environment programme element, as these could be better handled by other organizations. One representative said he would wish these activities to also involve employers' organizations. The observer for ILO, however, welcomed the inclusion of the working environment as a distinct programme element and expressed a desire to continue developing joint activities with UNEP in this area.

I. *Subprogramme 9: Peace, security and the environment*

122. Several representatives strongly supported the subprogramme activities and, in view of the emergence of new global concerns on environmental security, welcomed the new initiatives proposed. The developments on disarmament agreements were very encouraging, they stated, but it was essential for UNEP to continue to assess the situation and bring out recommendations for new mechanisms and institutional arrangements to help solve environmental conflicts and respond to the need for international environmental security. One representative suggested that the activity should be strengthened to cover such areas as nuclear tests and destruction of chemical weapons and that the whole concept of environmental security should be developed to put more emphasis on eradication of poverty.

123. Some representatives considered that UNEP should have a specific role in the areas of peace and security, but the proposed activities were not clear enough and were too costly. One representative proposed that new activities in the area should be distributed among relevant other subprogrammes.

124. A number of representatives expressed strong reservations about the proposed new activities, especially the activity to examine mechanisms to resolve environmental conflicts. They considered that this issue was being addressed by Working Group III of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED, and UNEP should not initiate any new activity in that area before the matter had been dealt with in that forum.

125. Several representatives recommended that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/253, this subprogramme should be deleted. The funds so released, stated one representative, could be reallocated.

126. One representative appealed to the Committee not to delete the subprogramme, since it dealt with the very survival of the biosphere as the life-support system of humanity. Recent events in Kuwait, he stated, attested to the need for such a subprogramme as part of UNEP's overall responsibilities.

J. *Subprogramme 10: Environmental assessment*

1. *Programme element 10.1: Earthwatch co-ordination*

127. All representatives that spoke on the subject and the observers for WHO, WMO, Unesco, FAO and UNSO supported the proposed strengthening of Earthwatch. One representative stressed the importance of the enhanced co-ordinating role of Earthwatch.

2. *Programme element 10.2: INFOTERRA*

128. Several representatives encouraged the strengthening of INFOTERRA to allow it to enhance the institutional capabilities of developing countries for storing and retrieving environmental information and to improve INFOTERRA's

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telecommunications links with network partners. One of the representatives, however, suggested that that might be achieved by moving Earthwatch activities to Geneva. One representative also expressed the desire for the strengthening of INFOTERRA's on-line access to databases and of its publications programme.

3. *Programme element 10.3: International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC)*

129. Several representatives commended the work of IRPTC, in particular its role in the implementation of the Amended London Guidelines.

130. Some representatives underlined the importance of the work of IRPTC for developing countries as a global centre for the exchange of information on chemicals, thereby assisting these countries, through early warning and policy advice, in improving the rational management of chemicals.

131. One representative commended IRPTC as a well-run Earthwatch operation, stating that IRPTC was becoming an increasingly important global centre for the collection, storage and dissemination of data on chemicals. The representative referred to the important role of IRPTC in the FAO/UNEP joint programme on prior informed consent (PIC) and underlined the importance of the training and technical assistance given to developing countries, thereby improving institutional capabilities in the management of chemicals.

132. Concerning the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Amended London Guidelines, some representatives pledged broad support for its recommendations as presented in UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.4.

133. One representative drew particular attention to the need for further development of model national legislation for the implementation of the Amended London Guidelines, harmonization of activities and the principle of prior informed consent (PIC), and for technical support for developing countries for the implementation of the Guidelines. The representative confirmed her continued support for the development of National Registers of Potentially Toxic Chemicals and for the development of a convention as the most appropriate means of strengthening the Amended London Guidelines.

134. Some representatives proposed that IPCS develop proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and risk management of chemicals in the context of the work of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED. One representative suggested that the Executive Director, in consultation with ILO, WHO, FAO and OECD, convene a government expert meeting to review such proposals.

135. One representative assigned low priority to the idea of developing a convention on the management of hazardous wastes. Some representatives underlined the importance of further implementation of the Basel Convention. Another representative welcomed the adoption by African countries of the Bamako Convention on the control of imports of hazardous wastes into Africa.

4. *Programme element 10.4: Global Resource Information Database (GRID)*

136. A number of representatives expressed support for strengthening of the Global Resource Information Database (GRID).

137. Several representatives expressed support for the creation of a Programme Activity Centre for policy development and management of the GRID network. Some representatives emphasized the need for co-ordination of the Earthwatch element, as proposed in the Secretary-General's draft report, and for continued strong links between the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) and GRID.

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138. One representative emphasized that a GRID-Nairobi facility should continue to operate and that GRID-Geneva should be concerned with maintaining the global GRID data holdings. He expressed support for the expansion of the GRID network and proposed that existing training programmes should be strengthened through the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and donors. Donor assistance should be also sought for expanding the use of GRID technology in developing countries. The representative stressed that GRID should move from demonstration projects to the development of regional and global data sets, in co-operation with other international organizations.

139. One representative raised some queries concerning co-ordination with the Preparatory Committee for UNCED and the possibility of opening GRID-compatible centres other than in Africa and Europe.

140. In reply, the representative from the secretariat stated that GRID was awaiting specific data requirements from UNCED and that some technical assistance had been provided to the UNCED secretariat by GRID-Geneva. He clarified the role of GRID centers. Concerning other regions, GRID was already supporting the development of capability in sub-regional bodies, such as the Asian Institute of Technology which housed GRID-Bangkok. Discussions were well advanced with the South-Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and with the Caribbean Action Plan secretariat.

141. The representative of the USSR informed the Committee that his Government would take part in the development of GRID, and that plans for the establishment of a GRID centre in Moscow had been prepared.

142. The observer for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) referred to co-operation with GRID in the field of strengthening geographic information system (GIS) capabilities in Africa, in partnership with GEMS and UNITAR.

5. *Programme element 10.5: Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)*

143. Some representatives stressed the need for general co-operation in this field with relevant international and national institutes.

144. A number of representatives and the observers for WHO, WMO, UNESCO and UNSO voiced their strong support for the GEMS programme. One representative said that the programme deserved ongoing support because of the necessity of having sound environmental information on which to base management action.

145. Several representatives and the observers for WHO, WMO and UNESCO stressed the need for technical assistance to strengthen national capabilities through training, technical support and other activities. The representative of the secretariat stated that GEMS was aware of this need and that there was provision for technical assistance under programme element 10.5, points 6 and 10. A programme to strengthen monitoring and assessment capabilities was under way in Africa, final discussions had been held with the South Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) and discussions were under way with the Caribbean region.

146. The observer for WMO described the ongoing co-operation with UNEP in the monitoring and assessment of ozone, climate and climate change. He expressed the need to strengthen co-operation and support for preparation of assessments in the fields of long-range transport of pollutants, including acidity in precipitation, the changing oxidizing capacity of the atmosphere and changes of greenhouse gases, using existing monitoring capacities. He further called for the strengthening of the reporting of data on ozone and greenhouse gases in Antarctica and tropical regions and for the improvement of the Global Atmospheric Watch, to be carried out in conjunction with UNEP through GEMS. He suggested that those activities could form part of an early-warning system.

147. The observer for WHO reported on the involvement of his organization in the environmental pollution programmes, GEMS/Air, GEMS/Water, GEMS/Food and HEALs (Human Exposure Assessment Locations). He drew attention to the newly

established programme for radiation monitoring and stressed the need to increase the geographical coverage of the programmes to support better assessments.

148. The observer for UNESCO, speaking also on behalf of IOC, reported on the monitoring and assessment activities that were relevant to GEMS. He welcomed the development of a network to study anthropogenic and climate change impact on terrestrial ecosystems and suggested the use of biosphere reserves for the network. One representative also supported this network and stressed the need for co-operation with the ECE programme on integrated monitoring. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that the development of the programme had taken into consideration activities under way in the field of integrated monitoring under the ECE.

149. The observer for FAO reported on FAO's Forest Resources Assessment 1990 base being completed, which should be continued, with the support of several donors, in terms of monitoring of deforestation and the condition of the world's forests. He also spoke about FAO's Global Information and Early-Warning System, which was well-tested and could provide through the satellite imagery reception stations at the FAO headquarters and in Nairobi information on soil and vegetation condition, locust outbreaks and could assist in drought forecasting and food security measures. Earthwatch should be supportive and not duplicate efforts in this field. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that any future developments could take into consideration what is already existing and working in the system. Co-operation with FAO was welcomed. The representative also pointed out that support was foreseen for the forest assessment under programme element 3.3, activity 1. One representative expressed support for the assessment of forest cover and the establishment of an early-warning system.

150. One representative commented on the GEMS/Water programme and stressed the need to strengthen quality assurance, procedures and support for countries to allow them to interpret data for policy decision-making.

151. Some representatives stressed the importance and value of the project on the improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements. During the course of discussions on Harmonization of Environmental Measures (HEM) three countries, while endorsing the substance, raised the question of the principle governing selection of location for various UNEP activities. In reply, the representative of the secretariat stated that the location of HEM had been decided by two earlier Governing Council decisions (14/24 and 15/38). The point of principle raised by the delegation was important and could be discussed later.

152. One representative stressed the importance of the environmental problems associated with mega-cities and supported the WHO/UNEP/GEMS assessment of air quality in mega-cities. He also raised the question of the comparison of data between cities.

153. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that the WHO/UNEP/GEMS assessment of air quality in mega-cities now under way was using national data supplied to the GEMS/Air programme, together with supplementary national data; that would allow such comparisons to be made where appropriate.

154. Some representatives drew attention to the serious environmental consequences of the Chernobyl accident and called for further international support.

155. Some other representatives drew the attention of the Committee to the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) programme and requested UNEP support for this. The representative of the secretariat welcomed closer association with IGBP activities, including the System for Analysis, Research and Training (START). GEMS, he stated, had already noted the recommendation

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of the Second World Climate Conference to establish regional climate centres. UNEP recognized that such centres would have useful roles and would wish to ensure that these centres developed a capacity for climate impact assessment in each region and would also be a focus for improved education, training and dissemination of information on climate and climate change issues.

156. One representative voiced concern about the proposed increased budget for GEMS, suggesting that Earthwatch should be consolidated in Geneva to facilitate communication.

6. *Programme element 10.6: State of the environment*

157. One representative stressed the importance of the preparation of the state-of-the-environment reports requested by the Governing Council, and drew attention to the need to provide financial and technical assistance to 20 developing countries for preparation of national state-of-the-environment reports. He stated that this figure should be doubled if possible.

158. One other representative expressed the wish to have the comprehensive report on the state of the environment covering the period 1972-1992 ready in time for UNCED, as the report would be an essential input from UNEP.

K. *Subprogramme 11: Environmental management measures*

1. *Programme element 11.1: Environmental aspects of development planning and co-operation*

159. Many representatives gave strong support to this programme element, which they considered to be of major importance. Some representatives observed that integration of environmental considerations into economic policies and planning was critical to improving environmental conditions. One representative said that the activities under the programme element were of interest to developing and developed countries alike, and another said that they reflected a preventive approach to dealing with environmental issues.

160. Several representatives proposed that, in view of its significance and its contribution to policy formulation, the programme element should be strengthened by means of a larger budgetary allocation. Some of these representatives suggested that the larger allocation could perhaps be achieved by means of a reduction in the proposed budget for programme element 11.2, on environmental law and institutions.

161. Some representatives highlighted the need to maintain the focus on economic analysis of environmental issues, while several others pointed to the importance of promoting the use of environmental impact assessment in making decisions on development. One representative stated that work relating to natural-resource and environmental accounting was important, and suggested that UNEP should support possible UNCED work in this field.

162. Several representatives agreed that high priority should be given to the proposed activity relating to training, exchange of information and expertise in analytical methods, economic policy instruments and procedures. One representative expressed appreciation for UNEP's collaboration under this programme element in organizing regional training seminars on environmental impact assessment, held in Bandung, Indonesia. Another representative proposed that, in view of the need to apply environmental impact assessment in planning and project appraisal, the programme element should serve as a focal point for information on expertise on environmental impact assessment.

163. One representative suggested that activities should give special attention to helping developing countries build a national institutional and regulatory capability to integrate environmental considerations into the development process.

164. The observer for the Commission of the European Communities acknowledged that a proposal had been received from the UNEP secretariat for collaboration in the use of economic policy instruments to achieve environmental goals, and that the Commission was studying the proposal with interest.

165. The observer for FAO informed the Committee that, further to the implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment in FAO's field projects, FAO intended to start work related to sustainability assessment, to take into account social, economic and technological factors alongside environmental factors in project appraisal and expressed FAO's interest in strengthening work with UNEP in that field and on environmental accounting.

166. The observer for UNIDO pointed out that the circumstances and needs of planning for environmentally sound development differed from country to country and stressed the importance of working closely with all departments of the Government and United Nations agencies concerned. She expressed appreciation for the United Nations system's ongoing effort, co-ordinated by UNEP, to develop a methodology to assist countries in a concerted manner.

167. In response to requests for clarification from two representatives on activity element 4 of the subprogramme relating to international economic co-operation and the environment, the representative of the secretariat described the expected activities in regard to trade and environment, international finance and the environment and transnational investments and the environment. He also explained that UNEP would be working in consultation with concerned international organizations in this field.

2. *Programme element 11.2: Environmental law and institutions*

168. There was general support and appreciation for the work of UNEP's Environmental Law and Institutions Unit in developing global legal instruments in the field of the environment and providing assistance to developing countries. Most representatives called for the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit (ELIU) to be strengthened to enable it to perform its functions effectively.

169. Several representatives expressed their appreciation for the assistance given to develop national legislation and strengthen institutional arrangements, and further urged the Unit to give greater support to the review and elaboration of national environmental legislation, training of lawyers in environmental law, and assistance to incorporate provisions of global conventions into national legislation.

170. One representative, while stressing the need to strengthen the implementation of conventions, expressed her doubt about the proposed establishment of an inter-secretariat committee, suggested in document UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.2.

171. Concerning the planned activities, several representatives considered that it was not necessary at the present stage to start preparatory work on the formulation of international legal instruments on chemicals in international trade, environmental impact assessment, marine pollution from land-based sources and hazardous industrial accidents. One representative requested further information on planned ELIU activities in these areas. The representative of the secretariat explained that all the global conventions mentioned in the 1995 target in UNEP/GC.16/15 were for reference only, since the target had been adopted by the Governing Council in 1988.

172. Most of the representatives who spoke on the issue of environmental impact assessment held the view that a regional approach was more appropriate. Citing as an example the regional convention on environmental impact assessment in the transboundary context, adopted by the ECE countries, one representative urged that this be used as a model for other regions.

173. Some representatives stressed the importance of the Halifax Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution and urged UNEP to consider carefully the outcome of that meeting before deciding on follow-up action. One representative expressed his Government's support for UNEP's work on the subject of such pollution and urged the Council to pay more attention to it.

174. Several representatives expressed their support for the work of UNEP in the formulation of a global convention on biological diversity and urged UNEP to give this activity high priority. One representative supported the development of a convention on the management of hazardous wastes.

175. Some representatives were of the opinion that experience should be gained in the implementation of the Amended London Guidelines and that model national legislation should be further developed and reviewed before consideration was given to the elaboration of a convention on international trade in chemicals.

176. With regard to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, one representative stated that, now that the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import of Hazardous Wastes and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management within Africa of Hazardous Wastes had been adopted, African countries would consider becoming parties to the Basel Convention on an individual basis. This was welcomed by another delegation. Some representatives informed the Council that their Governments were in the process of ratifying the Basel Convention. The observer for IMO informed the Committee of the recommendation of the contracting parties to the London Dumping Convention concerning the need for UNCED to consider a global instrument as well as new or improved regional agreements on the prevention, reduction and control of land-based sources of marine pollution. In this respect he pointed out that IMO had participated in the process begun at the Halifax meeting and looked forward to participating in further deliberations.

177. Referring to the earlier discussion on the issue of climate, one representative requested that UNEP allocate additional resources to support the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC/FCCC), in particular through the reallocation of funds provided for the preparation of legal instruments on international trade in chemical products and impact studies, marine pollution from land-based sources and industrial accidents, which all represented areas on which no agreement had yet been reached. Another representative suggested that UNEP should put the ELIU's rich store of experience in negotiating international agreements in the field of the environment at the disposal of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

178. One representative suggested that, while preparing the computer database of principal government bodies dealing with the environment, as outlined under activity 5(d), non-governmental organizations should be taken into account. Speaking in reply, the representative of the secretariat stated that this had already been considered.

179. One representative expressed the view that the issue of examination of mechanisms to resolve environmental conflicts, including verification of adherence to environmental commitments, should be removed from subprogramme 9, activity 3, and brought under the activities of the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit.

180. Referring to the draft decision before the Council to establish the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit as a programme activity centre, many representatives gave support to the proposal. Some representatives, however,

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considered that the proposal needed further clarification, particularly regarding the differences in practice between the functions of units and of programme activity centres within UNEP.

181. Explaining the proposal to upgrade the Unit into a programme activity centre, the representative of the secretariat stated that the change was required by the increasing co-ordinating and administrative activities of ELIU in relation to the secretariat's other conventions. More flexibility and independence would, she said, enable the unit to function efficiently.

182. One representative requested further clarification regarding the substantial increase in allocation of funds to the Unit for 1992-1993. Another representative expressed the view that the increase was justified, considering the nature of the work the Unit had to do.

183. In reply, the representative of the secretariat explained that the increased allocations were mainly due to the expansion of technical assistance to developing countries as well as to increasing costs of organizing meetings.

184. Referring to the planned work on international legal instruments, the representative of the secretariat explained that it would concentrate where appropriate, on formulating and implementing legally binding instruments as well as implementing existing guidelines. The representative of the secretariat further explained that the allocation for climate change under the budget line was intended only to cover technical assistance for the negotiation process.

L. *Subprogramme 12: Environmental awareness*

1. *Programme Element 12.1: Environmental education and training*

185. There was general support for UNEP's action in the field of education and training, and for further close collaboration between UNEP and Unesco in the conduct of the International Environmental Education Programme (IEEP). One representative expressed his gratitude to UNEP for its assistance in this field.

186. The observer for UNESCO spoke of the long and fruitful collaboration between UNEP and Unesco in environmental education, particularly for the preparation of UNCED. UNESCO, he said, was committed to further strengthening the IEEP.

187. One representative called on UNEP to further strengthen school programmes dealing with environmental issues. Another representative stressed the need for the IEEP to conduct more environmental courses, workshops and seminars for educational planners and administrators, educators and decision makers. The observer for the League of Arab States, acknowledging the important contribution made by the IEEP, called on UNEP and Unesco to establish links, within IEEP, between educationists and environmentalists.

188. Some representatives requested further information on activities relating to the proposed research fellowship programme and on the consultancy and advisory service to universities. The representative of the secretariat stated that practically all universities were either strengthening or setting up departments or faculties of environment. In 1990, over 50 specific requests for assistance had been received and answered by UNEP and, as the trend was increasing, the new activity had been proposed. With regard to the research fellowships, he said that with an annual budget of $1 million,

between 50 and 75 grants could be awarded to enable promising young scientists and environmentalists to pursue research for a period of 4 months to one year, and co-operation with the regional offices was envisaged. A set of 12 criteria had been defined, including geographical distribution and applicability of expected research results in helping to improve environmental management.

189. Some representatives stressed the need to include elements of environmental literacy in education programmes, and pointed to the International Strategy for Action in the field of Environmental Education and Training for the 1990s, produced jointly by UNESCO and UNEP, as an excellent framework for attaining environmental literacy.

190. One representative stressed the need to link environmental training with technology transfer. The representative of the secretariat said that UNEP was offering training in selected universities in developed countries through which technology transfer occurred. Examples included courses in environmental management at Dresden in Germany and at Tufts University in the United States.

191. One representative called for UNEP to intensify the environmental training programmes at regional and national levels and to support the establishment of green belts in the Arab World. Some representatives stressed the importance of targetting environmental training programmes to women.

192. The observer for the League of Arab States, while welcoming the proposed expansion of the regional training networks, asked whether such expansion would include the Arab region, and whether UNEP educational and training materials were available in Arabic. A representative of the secretariat explained that Arab States were included in the network for Africa or West Asia, and that most IEEP training modules were available in Arabic.

193. The observer for ILO expressed his appreciation for the joint UNEP-ILO training programme involving employers and workers organizations and called for further collaborative efforts between the two organizations. On the subject of co-ordination, the representative of the secretariat informed the delegates that a meeting of Designated Officials for Environmental Matters could be organized in September 1991 to review the environmental training programmes carried out by the United Nations system.

194. Concerning the proposal to establish a world environment academy, a number of representatives expressed their concern about the risk of duplication between the proposed academy and other existing institutions or activities. They requested clarification and additional information. One representative supported the establishment of the academy.

195. The observer for the League of Arab States said that the academy was within the purview of UNESCO rather than UNEP, because of its educational and scientific nature. Several representatives considered that the resources earmarked for the activity could be put to better use. The observer for UNESCO favoured the creation of a small institution to carry out clearly defined research and training activities in the field of environment and development, focusing on an inter-disciplinary approach.

196. One representative wondered whether adequate consultations had been convened between UNEP and relevant organizations such as OECD, SPREP and ESCAP, among others, to finalize details for the establishment of the Academy.

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Another representative called for UNEP to make a thorough study of the need for such an Academy and to present the report to the Governing Council at its next session. One representative expressed the wish that the final decision to establish the Academy should be deferred until UNCED in 1992.

197. The representative of the secretariat, referring to document UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.3, said that, although the academy would be subject to discussion and approval of the plenary meeting, some clarifications might help in facilitating such a discussion. He explained that, having carried out studies on the matter and consultations with relevant international organizations, he did not see any risk of duplication between the academy and existing activities or institutions. It was envisaged that the academy would not deal solely with the environment, but also with environment-development issues. Membership would include not only environmental scientists but also industry, energy and other development sectors.

2. *Programme element 12.2: Public information*

198. Many representatives and the observer for the Commission of the European Communities stressed the importance of environmental awareness in environment and development, as it provided decision makers and the public with the necessary information to make changes to their policies and lifestyles.

199. One representative proposed that UNEP should use electronic-mail systems to get information out more quickly to non-governmental organizations and the media, which would facilitate, *inter alia*, a quicker dispatch of Governing Council documents to Governments.

200. Several representatives considered that information strategies should take into consideration the high rate of illiteracy in developing countries. One representative pointed out that information must be transferred to all levels and sectors of society, as literacy levels varied from country to country, and from one level of society to another. He added that one way to communicate effectively would be to work through non-governmental organizations.

201. A number of representatives called for a strengthening of public awareness activities in developing countries in order to solve their environmental problems, particularly through national and regional information campaigns.

202. Representatives from the Arabic-speaking region requested UNEP to disseminate more of its publications in Arabic. Some representatives also underlined the crucial role of women in spreading environmental awareness.

203. Several representatives said the idea of a "Green Brigade" needed further development and requested more information. In implementing the scheme, care should be taken not to expose young volunteers to hazardous situations, one representative noted. The observer for the Commission of the European Communities suggested that the Green Brigade should be co-ordinated with existing NGOs and volunteer groups and should start on a small scale. She offered the relevant expertise of the Commission in support of this initiative.

204. The representative of Thailand indicated that his Government had launched a similar activity at the national level and would also be willing to share this experience with UNEP. One representative thought the Green Brigade was an interesting idea and that such a mechanism could be used to respond to

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environmental emergencies and mobilize public opinion. However, he felt that the financial and legal aspects of this issue required scrutiny. Some representatives questioned the need for a Green Brigade.

205. The representative of the secretariat, referring to document UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.2, advised that only the first phase of the proposed Green Brigade was envisaged during the biennium 1992-1993. This would involve a small extension of the co-ordinating and networking functions already carried out in this programme, at a cost of no more than $400,000 for the biennium, to establish a Green Brigade based on existing non-governmental organizations and voluntary organizations. Any decision to proceed to the second phase would have to be taken by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

206. A number of representatives expressed support for most of UNEP's environmental awareness activities and satisfaction with the work carried out thus far, noting that emphasis on this vital element of UNEP's work must continue and grow in order to help UNEP carry out its catalytic work.

M. *Subprogramme 13: Technical and regional co-operation*

Programme element 13.1: Technical and regional co-operation

207. Some representatives expressed appreciation for UNEP's efforts in providing technical assistance to developing countries through specific regional activities. The observer for the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) referred to the fruitful technical co-operation in the formulation of the Zambezi River System Action Plan (ZACPLAN) as well as the Plan of Action for Integrated Land Use Planning in the Kalahari-Namib Affected Areas. He expressed hope that increased financial support would be provided for the two programmes.

208. One representative noted the large increase in funding required for the biennium 1992-1993 and requested a clarification regarding the breakdown according to the various regional commissions.

209. One representative expressed deep appreciation for UNEP's continued support for the AMCEN programme, which was regarded as essential for addressing key environmental problems in developing countries in Africa.

210. A number of representatives expressed their full support for UNEP's work in relation to the development of the Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean. One representative stressed the importance of increasing UNEP's financial support for the Plan.

211. Several Governments expressed full support for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and some representatives said they had been encouraged to develop new activities under SPREP. One representative requested further support for the work of the South Pacific Commission.

212. The observer for the League of Arab States expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by UNEP for the Plan of Action of the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development. Assistance for preparing projects within the main work programmes for the region was crucial, he said, in particular for combating desertification and industrial pollution and for increasing public environmental awareness. He considered that such work should also be seen in the light of the preparatory process for UNCED.

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213. Clarification was sought by one representative as to the necessity of continuing funding the regional commissions, in view of the original intention that the regional commissions would gradually integrate environmental activities into their programmes and thereby cover the funding themselves. The representative of the secretariat replied that UNEP's support for the regional commissions followed the same principles as for all other bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and was therefore used for joint project activities.

214. Several representatives urged UNEP to increase support to strengthen national institutional and professional capacities of developing countries to allow them to address key environmental problems. The representatives also encouraged UNEP to provide financial and technical assistance, including provision of equipment, to meet environmental needs and to promote the development of national environmental action plans. One representative asked UNEP to be careful not to duplicate efforts already being undertaken by other agencies.

215. Several representatives supported the proposed establishment of the International Environmental Technology Centre. Others, however, said they were unsure of the funding implications of the establishment of the Centre and the need to ensure proper co-ordination and thus preferred to reserve their position.

216. On the issue of inter-agency co-ordination, several representatives stressed the importance of strengthening inter-agency co-ordination in the United Nations as well as continuing co-operation with other existing organizations within the field of the environment, in order to mutually enhance efforts rather than duplicate them. Several other representatives requested further details on the establishment of a special unit within the UNEP secretariat and one representative was hesitant to support its establishment.

217. The observer for ILO, speaking on behalf of a number of the United Nations agencies represented at the meeting, expressed full support for the proposal to strengthen co-ordination within the United Nations system through, *inter alia*, strengthening secretariat support for co-ordination.

218. Several representatives expressed full support for UNEP's participation in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and stressed that GEF activities should be mutually reinforcing and in harmony with UNEP's objectives within the concentration areas of GEF. They stressed that, although the Scientific Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of GEF would provide guidance to the three implementing agencies, it was essential that UNEP should fully participate in the GEF project selection process, to ensure that selected projects would be incorporating considerations expressed in UNEP Governing Council decisions as well as existing or planned international conventions. The representatives requested further information on the relationship between foreseen GEF activities and the programme of UNEP.

219. In reply, the representative of the secretariat stated that UNEP would secure its essential role in the project selection process. Furthermore, the guidance which UNEP was providing to STAP in its role as the guiding mechanism for GEF activities would allow a certain influence on setting priorities.

N. *Supplementary programme of Environment Fund activities for the biennium 1992-1993*

220. Introducing document UNEP/GC.16/15/Add.1, the Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Programme, recalled Council decision 15/1, particularly its section VI, in which the Council approved an appropriation of $35 million as a supplementary appropriation for Fund programme activities, as presented in the annex to the decision. He drew attention to the financial status of implementation of the supplementary programme, as contained in annex I of UNEP/GC.16/15/Add.1 and the proposed adjustments as contained in annex II of the document. In view of the recommendation by the Fund Committee to approve a maximum ceiling of $180 million for core and supplementary activities, he informed the Committee that the proposed set of additional activities, over and above this ceiling, would not be discussed.

221. The proposed adjustments, which amounted to $6 million, were meant, he explained, to reallocate resources to three highest-priority activities, namely climate change studies in relation to preparation of a convention on biological diversity and support for the preparatory process of UNCED.

222. With regard to the proposed adjustment of $500,000 in activity 1 of annex II to study the implications of climatic changes and rising sea-level in coastal areas, one representative asked whether this activity would be co-ordinated with the work of IPCC. The representative of the secretariat assured him that it would be so.

223. Some representatives expressed their concern at the reduction of the appropriation for UNEP's contribution to the development and implementation of the Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (activity 13). The representative of the secretariat explained that, due to the late approval of the Action Plan, the implementation of that activity had been delayed and therefore did not need that level of resources for 1991.

224. One representative referred to the ongoing meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and to UNEP goal for 1995. He requested clarification why, if the African Programme was a priority, the secretariat had suggested a reduction to the appropriation (activity 12).

O. *Modifications to the UNEP medium-term plan by the General Assembly*

225. The Assistant Executive Director, introducing document UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2, explained that the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, had introduced several amendments to programme 16, on environment, of the United Nations medium-term plan 1992-1997. He added that the UNEP medium-term plan was based on the system-wide medium-term environment programme 1990-1995, approved by the special session of the Governing Council in 1988.

226. Some representatives wondered whether the Governing Council had the authority to reverse a decision taken by the General Assembly. One delegation said that the Governing Council could make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the Assembly's resolutions.

227. Some representatives stated that they did not wish UNEP to continue implementing activities under subprogramme 9 (Peace, security and the environment) and added that the General Assembly had decided to delete this subprogramme. Two representatives considered that this subprogramme had produced very good results and mentioned several publications of very high quality.

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228. The Committee decided to delete subprogramme 9 and to move some of its activities to other subprogrammes. The Committee, however, accepted the other recommendations of the Executive Director to the General Assembly, including the maintenance of environmentally sound management of water resources as a high priority.

P. *Strengthening three main units within the Office of the Environment Programme by establishment of Programme Activity Centres (PACs)*

229. Most of the representatives that spoke agreed that the draft resolution should be passed in its current form to the plenary session of the Council. During the debate, some representatives supported the creation of all three PACs, while others voiced greater support for the conversion of the Industry and Environment Office and GRID only. The representative of the secretariat stressed that the creation of PACs was aimed primarily at increasing efficiency, as well as the maintenance and strengthening of close interlinkages.

Q. *Other matters*

230. At the 12th meeting of the Committee, on 25 May 1991, the representative of Mexico expressed his dissatisfaction at the fact that no interpretation into the languages of the United Nations was available after 6.15 p.m. and that this recurring state of affairs disadvantaged his and other representatives. Stating that, in a spirit of co-operation, he was prepared to continue to participate in an extended meeting held in English only, he wished his views to be put on the record of the Committee. His opinions were supported by the representatives of Argentina, France, Greece and Saudi Arabia.

R. *Action by the Committee*

231. Upon completion of its consideration of agenda items 6 (a), 6 (b) and 7, the Committee adopted the report on its deliberations contained in document UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.14 and Add.1-4 and approved a number of draft decisions for adoption by the Council (UNEP/GC.16/L.18).

232. During the discussion on the draft decisions, the Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Programme, referring to the three intergovernmental meetings of experts proposed in the draft decisions on toxic chemicals, oceans and coastal areas, and hazardous wastes, informed the Committee that these meetings could only be undertaken if additional resources were made available to the secretariat. Furthermore, he expressed strong reservations about the feasibility of convening these meetings and reporting on them in time for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Annex III

REPORT OF THE FUND COMMITTEE

A. *Introduction*

1. Under the chairmanship of Vice-President Mr. Frantisek Penazka (Czechoslovakia), the Fund Committee held nine meetings between 20 and 24 May 1991, to consider agenda item 8 (The Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters).

2. At the 1st meeting of the Committee, held on 20 May 1991, Mr. Carlos Gamba (Colombia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation. The Committee also approved the organization of its work as proposed in UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.1.

3. In considering the item, the Committee had before it the following documentation: chapter V and annex II of the 1989 Annual Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/2); chapter V and annexes II and III of the 1990 Annual Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/3); the report of the Executive Director on Fund target for 1995 (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.5); the report of the Executive Director on programme and programme support costs of the Environment Fund: performance report and proposed revised budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and proposed budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (UNEP/GC.16/22 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2), supplemented by his report on recent developments regarding the proposed programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (UNEP/GC.16/22/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on the Environment Fund: the use of resources in 1990-1991 and the proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 (UNEP/GC.16/23 and Corr.1 and 2), supplemented by his report on developments 1 January - 30 April 1991 (UNEP/GC.16/23/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on additional sources of funding and management of trust funds (UNEP/GC.16/24 and Corr.1 and 2), supplemented by his report on development during the period 1 January to 30 April 1991 (UNEP/GC.16/24/Add.1) and his report on Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GC.16/24/Add.2); the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the proposed budget for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1992-1993 (UNEP/GC.16/L.1 and Corr.1); and, a note by the Executive Director on the Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1988-1989 ended 31 December 1989 (UNEP/GC.16/L.3).

4. In his introductory remarks, the Assistant Executive Director for Fund and Administration outlined the issues to be covered by the Fund Committee. These included the Environment Fund, programme and programme support costs, additional sources of funding and trust funds and personnel-related matters. Presenting the status of the Environment Fund in 1991 and estimated contributions for 1992 and 1993, he pointed out that 1990 contributions had reached a record high and that UNEP appeared to be moving towards its 1992 target of $100 million. However, in the event that there should be a shortfall in contributions, an order of priorities for spending in 1992-1993 had been prepared for the Committee's consideration.

B. *The Environment Fund: availability and use of resources*

5. Several representatives expressed concern about the decreasing number of countries contributing to the Environment Fund, leaving the financial burden to be borne by the same States each year. The Assistant Executive Director stated that he shared this concern, although he noted that the non-contributors were largely developing countries.

6. Several representatives drew the attention of the Committee to the importance of maintaining a reserve fund for emergency situations. The Assistant Executive Director agreed that there should be greater provision for emergency and unforeseen situations, adding that the Fund Committee would be requested to increase the Fund Programme Reserve from its current level of $4 million to $10 million for 1992-1993.

7. To one representative who requested information on how the Fund programme reserve was spent, the Assistant Executive Director replied that the Fund Programme Reserve was utilized to finance unanticipated activities and to meet unforeseen requests emanating from a variety of sources, including the Governing Council itself.

8. In view of the substantial amount of funds brought forward from 1990 to 1991, several representatives questioned the ability of UNEP to manage and utilize fully the proposed increased contributions. The Assistant Executive Director explained that the large carry-over from prior years was due in part to contributions paid late in the year, uncertainty as to the timing of payments, commitments carried forward, and delayed approval of projects due to protracted negotiations with implementing partners. Several representatives stated that their Governments' budgetary procedures created difficulties in making their pledges and payments coincide with UNEP's budgetary requirements.

9. Many representatives expressed doubts about the ability of their Governments to increase their pledges to the levels necessary to meet the proposed targets for 1992-1993 and 1994-1995, while several proposed postponing the decision on the 1995 Environment Fund target until after the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

10. A number of representatives announced an increase in their contributions to the Environment Fund, while other countries indicated that they would maintain strong support to the Fund, although they were not yet able to provide firm pledges. The representative of Austria informed the Committee that his Government was considering a 20 per cent increase for 1992-1993. While supporting the proposed Fund target, the representative of Finland announced that her Government would increase its contribution for 1992 by an unspecified amount and would also endeavour to make further increases up to 1995, the levels to be determined by the performance and responsiveness of UNEP and contributions from other countries that were in a position to increase their contributions. Germany announced a pledge for 1991 and 1992 of DM 9.6 million annually, as well as a counterpart contribution for the Dresden University training course for 1991 and 1992 of DM 750,000 and DM 1 million respectively. The representative of Italy announced that his Government would increase its 1991 contribution to Italian lire 3,000 million. The representative of Sweden, too, announced his Government's pledge of SKr 22 million annually for 1991 and 1992. It was noted that some other countries had already pledged to the Environment Fund at a substantially higher level.

11. One representative asked for information as to how the lack of available funds hampered UNEP's ability to carry out its activities. He also called for a clear view of programme activities and careful planning for the medium-term phase.

12. Several representatives called for a strengthening of the consultative and monitoring role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the course of the implementation of UNEP activities. The delay in receiving some of the documentation gave rise to dissatisfaction on the part of a number of representatives, in particular the delay in budget documentation, which had to be subject to prior examination by financial experts.

13. During the extensive discussion of the Fund targets for the 1992-1993 biennium, a number of representatives supported the proposed sums of $150 million for the core programme and $30 million for the supplementary programme. Several also endorsed the proposed increase in the Fund programme reserve from $4 million to $10 million, although reservations about these latter increases were expressed by one representative.

14. Several representatives also called for a strengthening of the consultative role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and an extension of its monitoring function to cover the implementation of core activities. One representative stated that strengthening the function of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was an essential prerequisite to his Government's agreement to the $150 million core programme target.

15. One representative stated that in order to plan the 1992-1993 programme activities, $67 million should be used as a 1991 base figure. A few expressed skepticism about reaching the $150 million contribution level necessary to implement the core activities. They asked that the Fund Committee establish an inner core of priorities to be implemented within the overall core programme. One representative proposed targets of $100 million and $50 million for the core and supplementary programmes respectively. By contrast, several representatives expressed the view that it was important to include provision for a supplementary programme in the event that additional funds became available.

16. Several representatives asked the secretariat to issue a list indicating payments of contributions in 1990 pledges, both as a percentage of the total and as compared with these Governments' scales of assessment for the regular budget of the United Nations. One requested details of expenditures during 1990-1991 against the Fund programme reserve. These were provided by the secretariat.

17. One representative asked which procedures the Executive Director applied in committing funds when a shortfall in contributions was likely. In his response, the Assistant Executive Director for Fund and Administration quoted article 8 of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme.

18. One representative sought clarification on the composition of item (k) (iii) ("Necessary extensions and new projects") of the table regarding the flow and use of resources of the Environment Fund through 1995, contained in annex I to his report on recent developments relating to the use and proposed use of the resources of the Environment Fund (UNEP/GC.16/23/Add.1). The Assistant Executive Director explained that these figures represented the resources available within the appropriation for activities, taking into account approved commitments. It would be needed to cover institutional

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projects such as programme activity centres, which constituted the bulk of the "necessary extensions"; the remainder would be available for new activities, although these might be added to existing projects or prepared as new projects.

19. Some representatives expressed doubt as to whether UNEP would be in a position to sustain the proposed increased level of activities, given the fact that the balance of Fund brought forward from 1990 was almost as high as the level of expenditure for that same year. The Assistant Executive Director replied that the end-year balance of 1990 contained approximately $8.3 million of non-convertible currencies, while the payment of some contributions late in the year and the cautious policy always adopted by the Executive Director towards incurring new commitments until contributions were assured were contributory factors in the level of the balance of the Fund at the end of the year. He stated that since in the past few contributions had been paid during the first three months of the year, it was always necessary to retain resources at the end of the year to cover financial needs over the first quarter of the next.

20. Concluding the discussion of the Fund targets, the Committee agreed upon the draft letter to be sent to the Chairman of the Programme Committee, requesting, that the Committee prepare a programme for Fund Programme activities in 1992-1993 of $150 million and also asking it to identify additional activities amounting to $30 million. Furthermore, the Committee requested the Programme Committee, in the event of a shortfall of the expected contributions towards the $150 million programme, to describe the appropriate approach to be adopted by the Executive Director, whether by identifying projects of lower priority or taking other action. In these cases, the Fund Committee suggested that the Executive Director take account of that proposed approach in formulating his responses to the possible shortfall of contributions, which he should present to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for review and approval.

21. In his introduction to the target for the Environment Fund for the 1994-1995 biennium, the Assistant Executive Director presented two alternative scenarios as requested by the Committee, which set out the flow and use of resources of the Environment Fund through 1995 with increases in contributions of 10 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

22. One representative stated that the period in question, 1991-1995, would be characterized by a number of factors that rendered the formulation of a precise fiscal framework required for programme planning purposes very difficult. These factors, among others, depended on the outcome of UNCED. Hence, the entire four years would demand exceptionally sound and prudent financial management, supported by consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

23. A few representatives pointed out the need to distinguish between a target figure of $250 million and what they maintained was a more realistic planning figure based on the expected level of contributions. One representative suggested that the decision for the 1994-1995 target be postponed until the seventeenth session of the Governing Council and that, pending the deliberations of the Council at that time, the Executive Director plan a programme based on the level of contributions received during the 1992-1993 biennium. The proposed programme should then be discussed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives before being presented to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

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24. Pointing out that not giving the Executive Director guidance on the size of the programme to be prepared would be a departure from customary practice, the Assistant Executive Director suggested that a definite figure be proposed with provision for an additional programme, as was the case for the 1992-1993 biennium.

25. Several representatives suggested a planning figure representing a 10 per cent increase over the 1992-1993 programme figure, i.e. $165 million for the core programme and $35 million for the supplementary programme. Several others stressed the need to strive to attain the target of $250 million. Still others suggested a figure of $150 million for the core programme, one proposing a $40 million supplementary programme.

C. *Programme and programme support costs*

26. In his introduction of the Executive Director's performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991, the Assistant Executive Director pointed out that the Executive Director was seeking no more than the appropriation already approved for the current biennium, but he was seeking the Council's approval of the reapportionment of this sum as indicated in tables 5, 6 and 7 of the report. He informed the Committee that substantial savings had been achieved as a result of the decline in the exchange value of the Kenya shilling against the dollar, as well as from a staff vacancy rate that was higher than had been anticipated, even though this sum would be offset by inflation to some extent.

27. The Executive Director was proposing that the balance of these savings would be utilized to finance additional office accommodation by way of a loan to the regular budget of the United Nations of $2.5 million in 1991 and $3.5 million in 1992. This loan, together with the interest accrued, would be repaid by the United Nations by remission in rent during 1992, 1993 and probably 1994. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had, in principle, accepted a proposal of the Secretary-General to construct additional office accommodation at Gigiri, but had stated that it wished to consider the matter further once firm bids for the project had been obtained. The Executive Director was now seeking the approval of the Governing Council for this arrangement, subject to the final approval of ACABQ.

28. One representative, noting the comments of ACABQ, requested clarification of the increase in travel and consultancy costs in 1990-1991. In reply, the Assistant Executive Director explained that these costs had risen significantly in 1990 and would increase further in 1991. He attributed this increase to inflation, as well as to the need for greater staff travel to such meetings as those held by UNCED and the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit. Additionally, he explained that because UNEP had not been able to recruit new staff against existing vacancies, a greater use of consultants had been necessary. In effect, some of the savings resulting from vacant posts were being spent on consultants.

29. Several representatives expressed concern about the high vacancy rate and asked for a detailed explanation from the Assistant Executive Director. Another representative asked for a complete list of vacant posts, including information on why and how long they had remained vacant, as well as what measures had been taken to solve the problem. Still another observed that the vacancy rate had increased from 10 per cent to 24 per cent despite the availability of candidates and asked why these posts had not been filled. He also remarked that given the high vacancy rate, it was contradictory to ask

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for more space in the proposed new accommodation. He questioned, too, why the Governing Council was being asked to approve posts that could not be filled until additional resources became available.

30. One representative remarked that the increasing number of meetings held in Nairobi called for full-time interpreters. He suggested that instead of engaging interpreters from Europe as needed, it might be more economical to recruit such staff for Nairobi on a permanent basis, at least in respect of English, French and Spanish. One representative observed that interpretation facilities should be envisaged for all six official languages of the United Nations and not restricted to three.

31. In reply, the Assistant Executive Director stated that interpretation services financed through Fund activities had cost the Environment Fund approximately $950,000 in 1990. To have permanent interpretation facilities in three languages, as was being proposed, UNEP would require 12 full-time interpreters, which would cost an estimated $903,000. He added that the current tendency among United Nations bodies was increasingly to engage free-lance interpreters as needed. In this connection, one representative observed that as the costs of hiring interpreters on a long-term basis were almost the same as engaging free-lancers, UNEP should opt for the former, the more so as the number of meetings in Nairobi had increased in 1991 and would probably continue to rise.

32. Another representative requested the budgetary implications of hosting informal meetings of the ministers of the environment. The Assistant Executive Director replied that in 1990, UNEP had spent $9,134 and $16,861 in 1991, resulting in a total of $25,995.

33. Responding to personnel questions in general, the Assistant Executive Director stated that there were three criteria for filling posts: the availability of qualified candidates; the need for maintaining balance between staff from developed and developing countries; and broad-based geographical distribution. As to the increased need for office accommodation, he pointed out that whereas UNEP had employed 198 professional staff members in 1988, this number had increased to 235 by 1990. Moreover, additional staff members were currently being recruited.

34. One representative stressed the fact that the post of Secretary-General for the CITES Secretariat had been vacant since November 1990. The Assistant Executive Director replied that the new appointee would soon take up his duties.

35. Several representatives sought clarification as to the high turnover of UNEP staff. One asked if this was unique to UNEP or if the problem was shared by other United Nations bodies; he also asked if any surveys on this subject had been carried out. The Assistant Executive Director replied that no such survey had been undertaken by UNEP. However, he stated that there were problems in retaining professional staff in Nairobi, most of which were personal.

36. One representative asked if the 52 staff recruited during 1990 included those recruited for a period of less than one year who therefore did not have to be approved by the Appointment and Promotions Board. The Assistant Executive Director confirmed that these staff included those recruited on short-term basis, as well as Junior Professional Officers.

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37. Another representative asked what would happen to programme and programme support costs for 1992-1993 if contributions fell short of UNEP projections. In reply, the Assistant Executive Director stated that the programme and programme support costs budget for 1992-1993 was based essentially on the staffing level of 1990-1991; the immediate request concerned only the four additional professional posts and four additional general service posts for the Clearing-house, posts which had not been approved by Governments when the Council had established the Unit in 1982, except for one P-4.

38. Introducing his budget proposals for 1992-1993, the Assistant Executive Director explained that his original proposals had been revised to include supplementary staffing proposals, but suggested that the Committee concentrate initially on the original proposal contained in document UNEP/GC.16/22 and consider the supplementary proposals afterwards.

39. The Assistant Executive Director also pointed out that although environment had been designated a priority subject for the United Nations, the regular budget allocation to UNEP was only some 0.6 per cent of that budget. This covered the cost of only 13.5 per cent of all UNEP professional posts. Since the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board of the United Nations had recommended to the ACABQ an increase of no more than two posts for UNEP from the regular budget, the Executive Director was seeking, as a supplementary proposal, the approval of the Governing Council for an additional 23 Professional and 32 local-level posts, for which $2.4 million would be required. The Assistant Executive Director stated that these supplementary posts would be filled only when funds became available to carry out not only the basic programme of $150 million, but also the activities of the proposed additional programme of $30 million.

40. One representative questioned the wisdom of asking for additional posts when the vacancy rate was as high as 24 per cent, adding that as there had been vacancies since 1985, the Council should wait for all the current vacancies to be filled. Consequently, the question of additional posts should be decided upon by the Council at its next regular session.

41. One representative queried the request for additional funding for the Executive Direction and Management budget line in 1992-1993. The Assistant Executive Director provided the breakdown of that line in regular budget terms, as well as that of programme and programme support costs.

42. Another representative sought clarification as to the financial implications to the programme and programme support costs budget of making the Industry and Environment Office, GRID, and the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit programme activity centres.

43. The Assistant Executive Director replied that because the programme activity centres were funded as projects, there would be no financial increase whatever to the programme and programme support costs budget and, indeed, the proposals under discussion included the deletion of two professional posts and two local-level posts under the Office of the Environment Programme if the Council approved the establishment of the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit as a programme activity centre.

D. *Organizational and personnel issues*

44. In discussing other organizational and personnel matters, the Committee focused on two main issues: the deployment of Junior Professional Officers and the situation at the end of 1992 when many of UNEP's senior management staff would be retiring.

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45. A number of representatives pointed out that in maintaining the balance between staff from developing and developed countries, posts financed by Governments or language posts should not be taken into account.

46. The Assistant Executive Director stated that if the Executive Director were requested to do so in a decision of the Governing Council, he would agree that staff financed directly by Governments, as well as language staff, would not be counted in calculating the balance of staff between developing and developed countries.

47. On the question of the retirement of a number of UNEP senior management officers during the next 18 months, many representatives expressed concern that this would create a vacuum and jeopardize UNEP's ability to implement the programme after UNCED.

48. In reply, the Assistant Executive Director assured the Committee that UNEP management was considering this problem very seriously and that specific steps were being taken to prepare in advance for these retirements. For example, there would be some staff reorganization after this Governing Council session and some of the retirees would be asked to stay on to the extent allowed by the United Nations rules so as to help train their successors. All vacancies would be advertised well in advance of the dates of the expected retirements.

49. Many representatives commended the scheme of employing Junior Professional Officers because it exposed young men and women from various Governments to the United Nations system.

50. The Assistant Executive Director explained the "conditionality" attached to the new policy of equating one Junior Professional Officer from a developing country with two from a developed country. Further, he explained that the scheme, as it had operated in the past, had distorted the staffing structure of UNEP. He also informed the Committee that an instruction had just been received from the Office of Human Resources Management at United Nations Headquarters stipulating that only UNDP and UNICEF could accept Junior Professional Officers. If UNEP were to continue using the Junior Professional Officers scheme, Governments would have to authorize the Executive Director to do so through a Governing Council decision.

51. While supporting the proposal that developed countries should finance Junior Professional Officers from the developing countries, a few representatives expressed displeasure at the way in which they had been informed of this suggestion.

52. The Assistant Executive Director agreed that the matter might have been better handled after a number of representatives had indicated that it would not be possible for their countries to continue financing Junior Professional Officers if the new guidelines mentioned before would have to be applied.

53. One representative expressed the opinion that the Junior Professional Officer scheme should disappear, not only because it distorted staff composition, but the programme as well. In his view, all UNEP posts should be subject to the principle of equitable geographic distribution, which should not be distorted simply because only a few countries could pay for the training of their nationals at UNEP. In any case, the possibility of financing junior as well as senior professional staff in an equitable manner should be accepted.

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54. Another representative asked what would happen if his Government financed 10 Junior Professional Officers from developing countries to the United Nations and none was posted to UNEP. Another representative requested the legislative authority given to the Executive Director for the new policy on financing Junior Professional Officers.

55. The Assistant Executive Director first replied that he had not been able to find the legislative authority that required the Executive Director to maintain a broad balance in UNEP professional staff, but that he understood that this policy had been stated by the Executive Director at one of the early Governing Council sessions. Subsequently, he referred the Committee to a report of the Executive Director issued at the eighth session of the Council and to decision 8/18, in which the Council had taken note of that report. On the issue of Junior Professional Officers, he agreed with a comment of one representative that UNEP had experienced difficulty in identifying suitable candidates from developing countries who might be financed by developed countries. However, measures being considered to rectify the situation included advertising Junior Professional Officers vacancies in developing countries and requesting nominations from the Governments of developing countries. A number of representatives expressed the view that nominations should be requested from developing countries.

E. *Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1988-1989*

56. The Assistant Executive Director introduced the audited accounts of the Fund for the biennium 1988-1989, including the report of the Board of Auditors, which had been submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session and on which ACABQ had not made any specific observations. He added that the External Auditors had also examined the 1990 accounts of UNEP, but that as their report had not yet been received, it would have to be submitted to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session. However, UNEP's management had been assured that no serious issues had arisen from this audit.

F. *Additional sources of funding and management of trust funds*

57. The Assistant Executive Director introduced the subject of additional sources of funding, drawing particular attention to the proliferation of trust funds, which now stood at 42. He pointed out that the Committee of the Permanent Representatives in its draft decision had requested the Executive Director to examine the possibility of reducing the number of such funds through amalgamation and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session. He noted that the amalgamation of personnel trust funds would result in their being audited as a single global trust fund; this might not satisfy the financial requirements of individual donors. The Committee of the Permanent Representatives had also invited Governments to increase their financial support to specific activities, provided that these increases did not detract from increased contributions to the Environment Fund.

58. One representative requested an update on the contributions to the Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Develop and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage caused by Conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. This information was furnished by the secretariat.

59. One representative requested clarification of the difference between the Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility and the Trust Fund for the Interim Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This clarification was provided by the Assistant Executive Director.

60. One representative voiced the concern that the establishment of trust funds for specific UNEP activities might lead to a distortion of the priorities established by the Governing Council through its apportionment of funds within the appropriation for Fund programme activities.

61. Many representatives expressed support for paragraph 13 of the proposed draft decision on trust funds, which requested the Executive Director to examine the possibility of amalgamating a number of the funds. Several representatives supported paragraph 11 of this draft decision on trust funds, by which Governments were invited to increase their financial support to specific activities within the programme without detracting from increased contributions to the Environment Fund. One representative reaffirmed his Government's support to the Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Develop and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage Caused by Conflict between Iraq and Kuwait and announced his Government's contribution of $1.11 million to this trust fund, appealing to other Governments to contribute as well.

62. One representative requested information on the administrative costs involved in managing these trust funds. Another representative requested information on which trust funds were in deficit.

63. The Assistant Executive Director replied that although it was difficult to establish precise costs, UNEP charged a programme support cost of 13 per cent on all trust funds, with the exception of those trust funds devoted solely to personnel on which the charge was 12 per cent, in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the United Nations. He added that the income in the special account for programme support costs amply covered UNEP's costs of managing the trust funds. He explained further that the Financial Rules and Regulations of the United Nations did not permit deficits to occur in the trust funds.

G. *Action by the Fund Committee*

64. Upon completing its consideration of agenda item 8, the Committee adopted its report on its deliberations under the item (UNEP/GC.16/FATUI/L.3, Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3) and approved as amended a number of decisions for adoption by the Council (UNEP/GC.16/FATUI/L.4, UNEP/GC.16/FATUI/L.5, UNEP/GC.16/FATUI/L.6 and UNEP/GC.16/FATUI/L.7). While approving the draft decision on the Global Environment Facility, however, a number of representatives requested that their views be reflected in the Committee's report.

65. One representative stated that his Government noted with concern that over 50 per cent of the members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environmental Facility came from developed countries.

66. One representative, referring to paragraph 8 of the draft decision on the Facility, requested that the Executive Director's reports to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the subject should cover not only financial but also substantive matters.

67. One representative, while accepting the text of the draft decision on the Facility, expressed his reservations on its establishment; in his view, it risked distorting the priorities of environmental activities at the international level by concentrating only on areas of particular interest to a small group of countries. The decision-making process concerning the Trust Fund for the Interim Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer had been more democratic.

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Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION

Symbol	*Title*
UNEP/GC.16/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.16/1/Add.1 and Corr.1 (French only)	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.16/2	1989 Annual Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.16/3	1990 Annual Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.16/4 and Corr.1 and 2	Environment in the 1990s - challenges and demands: Introductory report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.1	Environmental consequences of the armed conflict between Iraq and Kuwait
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.2	Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies: the role of the Governing Council in strengthening the implementation of international legal instruments and in helping in the prevention and assisting in the resolution of environmental conflicts; a proposed United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance; and, the establishment of a Green Brigade
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.3 and Corr. 1 (English only) and 2	World Environment Academy
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.4 and Corr.1	Environment and economics
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.4/Supplement 1	International economic co-operation, environmentally sound development and revitalization of economic growth
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.5	Fund target for 1995
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.6 and Corr.1	Special session of the Governing Council in 1992
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.7	UNEP's participation in preparation for 1992 UNCED
UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.8	Statement by the Executive Director to the Governing Council at the opening meeting of its sixteenth session

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UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.9	Hope and accomplishment: introductory statement of the Executive Director on the issues before the Council at the plenary meetings of its sixteenth session
UNEP/GC.16/5 and Corr.1	Report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories
UNEP/GC.16/6	Effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment
UNEP/GC.16/7	Progress report on comprehensive 1992 state-of-the-environment report (20 years after Stockholm)
UNEP/GC.16/8	1990 state-of-the-environment report: "Children and the Environment"
UNEP/GC.16/9	1991 state-of-the-environment report: "State of the World Environment"
UNEP/GC.16/9/Add.1	Emerging environmental issues
UNEP/GC.16/9/Add.2	Hazardous environmental events
UNEP/GC.16/10	Co-ordination questions: strengthening of inter-agency co-ordination mechanism related to the environment
UNEP/GC.16/11	Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNEP/GC.16/12 and Corr.1	Co-ordination questions: 1990 report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1 (English and French only)	Co-ordination questions: 1989 report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session
UNEP/GC.16/14	Co-ordination questions: report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227
UNEP/GC.16/15	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993
UNEP/GC.16/15/Add.1 and Corr.1	Implementation of the supplementary programme 1990-1991 and proposed additional activities for the biennium 1992-1993

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UNEP/GC.16/16	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1989-1990
UNEP/GC.16/16/Add.1	External evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification
UNEP/GC.16/17	Secretary-General's report on monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental emergencies
UNEP/GC.16/18	Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas
UNEP/GC.16/19 and Corr.1	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.16/20 and Corr.1	Programme matters: updated list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance
UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only)	Programme matters requiring policy guidance from the Council
UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.1 and Corr.1	Strengthening three main units within the Office of the Environment Programme by establishment of programme activity centres (PACs)
UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.2 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2	Modifications to the UNEP medium-term plan by the General Assembly
UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3	Climate change; Biological diversity; sustainable agriculture
UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.4	Environmentally sound management of chemicals, in particular those that are banned or severely restricted, in international trade
UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.5	Strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas
UNEP/GC.16/22 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2	Programme and programme support costs of the Environment Fund; Performance report and proposed revised budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and proposed budget for the biennium 1992-1993
UNEP/GC.16/22/Add.1	Recent developments regarding the proposed programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993

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UNEP/GC.16/23 and Corr.1 and 2	The Environment Fund: the use of resources in 1990-1991 and the proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995
UNEP/GC.16/23/Add.1	The Environment Fund: the use of resources in 1990-1991 and the proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995: Developments 1 January - 30 April 1991
UNEP/GC.16/24 and Corr. 1 and 2	Additional sources of funding and management of trust funds
UNEP/GC.16/24/Add.1	Developments during the period from 1 January to 30 April 1991
UNEP/GC.16/24/Add.2	Global Environment Facility
UNEP/GC.16/25	The Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters (report of the Fund Committee)
UNEP/GC.16/26	Report of the Programme Committee of the Governing Council at its sixteenth session
UNEP/GC.16/Inf.1	Report on the state of preparedness of documents for the sixteenth session
UNEP/GC.16/Inf.2	Governing Council Bureau meetings with Bureaux of counterpart organs
UNEP/GC.16/Inf.3	Memoranda of understanding concerning co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other agencies of the United Nations system
UNEP/GC.16/Inf.4	Register of international treaties and other agreements in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.16/Inf.5	Implementation of resolutions of the forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly (1989 and 1990) and of ECOSOC 1990
UNEP/GC.16/Inf.6	Communication dated 22 May 1991 from the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay addressed to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.16/Inf.7	Volunteers for the environment (the "Green Brigade"): information note from the secretariat
UNEP/GC.16/Inf.8	List of participants

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UNEP/GC.16/L.1 and Corr.1	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the proposed budget for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1992-1993 [1]
UNEP/GC.16/L.3	Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1988-1989 ended 31 December 1989
UNEP/GC.16/L.4	State-of-the-environment reports: suggested action by the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.16/L.5	Suggested action by the Governing Council on issues raised in the introductory report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.16/L.6	The 1992 and 1993 state-of-the-environment reports: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.16/L.7	The 1990 state-of-the-environment report "Children and the environment": draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.16/L.8	Effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.16/L.9	Rationalization of Governing Council documentation: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.16/L.10	Emerging environmental issues: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.16/L.11	Hazardous environmental events: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.16/L.12	Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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[1] Preliminary informal version, as the final version of the report was not yet available at the time of the Governing Council.
